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Independence Day on Mars

**Pathfinder
buggy
safely
down on
red planet**

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

MARS Pathfinder, carrying its 22lb remote-control rover buggy Sojourner, plunged through the Martian atmosphere last night, man's first visitor to the surface of the red planet for more than 20 years.

At just after 6pm as America celebrated Independence Day, Rob Manning, the Flight Director, announced to cheering scientists at mission control in Pasadena, California, that the spacecraft had landed and was broadcasting a signal.

"We're down," a delighted Mr Manning shouted. He based his claim on an unexpected radio signal received from the spacecraft. The signal indicated that Pathfinder was on the surface of Mars after its 309-million-mile journey and in a stable condition, although Mr Manning added: "There is still a lot to be done. We are not out of the woods."

The signal, apparently from the spacecraft's automatic landing system, suggested that Pathfinder had landed with the "base petal", one of the sides of the spacecraft, on the ground, the best possible position. The news brought to an end a nail-biting descent in



The mission badge adopted by NASA

which everything appeared to have gone smoothly. Controllers had "splashed" earlier when Guy Beutelschies, the flight engineer, announced that the lander section had separated successfully at the start of the descent.

Because Pathfinder landed during the Martian night, its transmitter was turned off to conserve power. When the Sun rose at about 10pm BST last night, controllers expected

the solar cells to start generating so that the transmitter could be turned on again.

They were pleased with the accurate course followed by the device, so precise that no late corrections were needed. "It's been wonderfully dull," Mr Manning said. The mission is designed to prove that exploring the solar system need not be impossibly expensive. Mars Pathfinder has cost a mere £90 million; it reached

Mars six months after launch. As well as putting America back on the surface of Mars for the first time since the Viking spacecraft landed there in the 1970s, Pathfinder was

due to establish a number of time parachutes have been deployed at supersonic speed.

The landing place was a 0.2-mile by 12-mile ellipse in the southwest part of the original target area. Geologists will be delighted if Pathfinder managed to hit this area because it would provide a view of what appears to be a 1,600ft island carved by an ancient flood.

That could provide hard evidence that Mars once had flowing water on its surface.

Launched in December, Pathfinder was designed to shoot like a bullet through space at 16,600 mph and enter

the Martian atmosphere at a 14.2-degree angle. Too steep and it would burn up from friction; too shallow and it would skip off the atmosphere into oblivion. On Friday, engineers said that it was headed for a 13.9-degree entry, making the trip a bit slower and hotter but within planners' expectations.

What happens after landing depends on how Pathfinder settled on the rocky surface. Scientists did not expect to get any pictures from the surface until early today.

Pathfinder ushered in a new era of exploring Earth's neighbours for traces of water — and perhaps life. Designed before claims were made of evidence of life in meteorites from Mars, it is not equipped to search for life, but it will be followed by spacecraft designed to do just that.

Today Mars is a lethal place for creatures that need water and oxygen to survive. It can be as cold as -130°C in winter and the atmosphere is poisonous — more than 95 per cent carbon dioxide.

Bouncing baby, page 5
Tim Hames, page 20

Ulster exodus

An exodus from Northern Ireland got under way as fears grew of clashes over the Drumcree march... Page 2

Bill of Rights to be in place by end of next year

By FRANCES GIBB

A BILL of Rights will be enacted by the end of next year, enabling people to seek justice in Britain rather than European courts for breaches of human rights.

A White Paper will be published in the autumn and a Bill soon after.

The Government's pledge to act swiftly to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into domestic law came yesterday from the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC. Addressing a conference on the Bill of Rights at University College, London, he said it was critical that the Bill did not "disturb the supremacy of Parliament".

Other ministers in the Home Office, however, are believed to favour a version nearer to the more robust, Canadian model, which enables judges to strike down statutes that are inconsistent with human rights.

Lord Irvine appeared to rule out a special constitutional court as outlined in Labour's original consultation paper including lay people. Human rights cases should be part of the mainstream of the courts system, he said.

John Wadham, director of Liberty, the human rights group, said: "It seems that the Lord Chancellor is not going to go as far as we would like... he seems to think that Parliament should reign supreme, even when denying our human rights."

He added: "This Government's position is that we should be leading in the development of human rights in Europe, not grudgingly driven to swallow the medi-

Cambridge observatory faces closure

By OUR SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN'S oldest scientific institution, the Royal Greenwich Observatory in Cambridge, faces closure.

John Battle, the Science Minister, said yesterday that he had agreed to a plan prepared by the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council to withdraw support from the observatory and concentrate staff at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh.

The decision is no reflection on the quality of work done at Cambridge but with budgets not increasing, the council decided that it could no longer keep both centres open and support astronomers to move to Edinburgh.

The withdrawal of the support will almost certainly mean that the observatory will close, although the title may survive. It could be transferred back to the original Greenwich Observatory set up by Charles II more than 300 years ago.

The decision is likely to mean about 100 redundancies. Ken Pounds, the council's chief executive, said:

E2.4m saving, page 5

WPC disarms HIV man carrying deadly syringe

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A POLICE officer put her life at risk when she disarmed an HIV-positive patient who threatened to stab hospital staff with a knife and a syringe containing his blood.

WPC Karen Fry, 30, said yesterday that she talked the man into laying down his weapons in a 15-minute confrontation as an armed police and concentrate staff at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh.

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E2.4m saving, page 5

making sure no one was hurt. The married officer said that she thought on the spot about what to say to the patient, telling him that his problems could be sorted out.

"Basically I waffled and I think eventually he may have just got bored with the sound of my voice."

It was understood that the patient, who is in the infectious diseases ward, had inflicted head injuries on himself on Wednesday after throwing himself through a window.

Police said that a doctor had tried to sedate him after he became aggressive and started to cause damage.

Carl Powell, director of estates for the hospital, paid tribute to WPC Fry for her "exceptional response and sensitivity" to the incident and praised staff for protecting members of the public.

An award for WPC Fry's bravery is understood to be under consideration.

Mike Fleming, director of personnel at the Oxford Radcliffe Hospital Trust, said last night: "We are reviewing our security measures in the light of the incident."

Sporting euphoria vanishes

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS
CORRESPONDENT

SHANE WARNE, Australia's masterly spin bowler, recaptured his best form to take five for 48 and put his country in a dominant position in the Third Test against England at Old Trafford yesterday.

As the English euphoria at recent results in cricket and tennis evaporated, Australia seized the initiative after being all out for 235 in their first innings. England, leading 1-0 in the six-match series, were 161 for eight at the close.

Warne, who lacked his usual venom in the first two Tests, ripped the heart out of England, at one stage taking three for one in 38 balls. England were 123 for eight before an unbeaten ninth wicket stand by Mark Falstaff and Andy Caddick edged them towards Australia's total.

At Wimbledon, American Pete Sampras won his singles semi-final in straight sets against Todd Woodbridge, of Australia. The unseeded Woodbridge said: "Winners were flying all over the place. He just played fantastic."

Reports, pages 46 and 48

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Rob Andrew on the Lions' final test

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16-page supplement

MY TORMENT WITH NORMAN MAILER

By his first wife

ADVENTURE SPORTS



A Garvagh Road resident finishes a nationalist mural 48 hours before the Orange march is due to begin

Fear of parade clashes prompts Ulster exodus

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

AN EXODUS was under way last night as fears grew that serious sectarian clashes will erupt across Northern Ireland over tomorrow's contentious Orange parade at Drumcree in Co Armagh.

Belfast International Airport and Ulster's main ports reported a marked increase in passengers as hopes faded of an agreement between nationalists and Orangemen over the parade. Catholics, many of whom were burned out of their homes during Drumcree disturbances last July, headed across the Irish border.

Those remaining in Ulster stocked up on food, candles and camping gas stored in case loyalists cut Northern Ireland's electricity supply if the march is blocked.

With 48 hours to go until the parade is due to start, a massive security operation swung into action in Portadown last night. Police and Army checkpoints were set up on the main approach roads while armed soldiers were on standby throughout the Province.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern

Ireland Secretary, admitted tensions were increasing in both communities. Dr Mowlam insisted she would press ahead with attempts to broker an eleventh-hour agreement between Orangemen and nationalists in Portadown. In a lengthy meeting with Orangemen she tried to persuade loyalists to accept a compromise drawn up by Bob McCartney, the United Kingdom Unionist MP for North Down. Under his "McCartney plan", the Government would uphold the Orangemen's right to march their traditional route from Drumcree along the Catholic Garvagh Road into Portadown centre. As a gesture of goodwill the Orangemen would then agree not to march this year.

Hopes rose early yesterday that Orangemen would accept the plan when Robert Sauflers, the Order's Grand Master, said: "For the sake of peace it seems to be the only option left." Within hours, however, Mo Mowlam and the RUC said they would not agree to the idea. The Grand Master blamed Bertie Ahern for scuppering any hope of agreement when the new Irish Prime Minister said in Belfast on Tuesday that the march should not be forced down the Garvagh Road. Nationalists were also adamant last night that there would be "no Orange feet" on the street.

If no agreement is reached Dr Mowlam and the RUC will announce today whether the march will be restricted or forced down the Garvagh Road. If it is restricted

Finnegan, the RUC Chief Constable, will either renege on the promise or recommend to Dr Mowlam that she should ban it. Either would inflame loyalists. Alternatively, the march could be allowed down the Garvagh Road. That would enrage nationalists and trigger republican riots.

Serious loyalist violence erupted last year when Orangemen were banned from the Garvagh Road. Police reversed that decision after a four-day stand-off with the loyalists, leading to massive nationalist violence in Belfast and Londonderry.

Dr Mowlam made clear last night that the outlook was bleak. In a brief statement which she read out on the steps of Stormont Castle, she said: "I recognise tensions in both communities are increasing and people are in need of reassurance... We are continuing our efforts to find an accommodation that both communities can live with."

Moderate Orange leaders praised Dr Mowlam for supporting the "McCartney plan" said they would work through the night to reach an agreement with Nationalists.



Mowlam: admitted tensions are increasing

pering any hope of agreement when the new Irish Prime Minister said in Belfast on Tuesday that the march should not be forced down the Garvagh Road. Nationalists were also adamant last night that there would be "no Orange feet" on the street.

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Lang rules out return as MP

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

IAN LANG, the former President of the Board of Trade who lost his seat at the last election, has announced he does not intend to stand for Parliament again.

Mr Lang, 57, told a meeting of the Galloway and Upper Nithsdale constituency party last night that he felt it was time to make way for that election and win."

Commenting on the 20 years since he was first adopted and later elected to serve the rural constituency, he said: "They have been years of immense fulfilment, during which I have developed a special bond with the people of the area and made many good friends. They have been years of tremendous progress for Britain and it has been good to see Galloway and Upper Nithsdale share in that progress."

His decision to stand down prompted speculation that he may be in line for a seat in the House of Lords in John Major's farewell honours list.



Ian Lang: to make way for a younger candidate

Sickness at work is all in the mind

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

SICK building syndrome, the workplace complaint blamed for causing headaches, depression, tiredness and flu, is more likely to be caused by bad management and low job satisfaction than a poor working environment, a conference heard yesterday.

Alexi Marmot, an architect, told the Royal College of Psychiatrists annual conference in Bournemouth that it was a myth that poor air conditioning, harsh fluorescent lighting and uncomfortable workstations made people ill according to a survey of 4,100 civil servants working in 44 Whitehall buildings.

Locals fail to meet Dewar half way on Skye bridge

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A 50 per cent cut in how much local people are charged to cross the Skye bridge was announced by the Scottish Office yesterday, but instantly dismissed as "a sop" by angry islanders.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, halved the price of concessionary tickets for local people, taking a single car crossing down to £1.25. But the move failed to satisfy anti-toll protesters who pledged to continue their 15-month campaign of non-payment until the charges, the most expensive in Europe, are abolished completely.

Drew Millar, chairman of Skye and Kyle Against the

Tolls, known as Skat, said Mr Dewar's attempt to pacify islanders by meeting them half-way had missed the point of the no-toll campaign. "The crux of the matter is the damage to the tourist industry and the knock-on effect on the island's economy. Businesses are definitely quieter this season than in previous years, that means less money to go around," he said.

The package of cuts announced in Edinburgh will only affect regular users. Previously a book of ten concessionary tickets cost £25.10, or £2.51 per crossing. That will now be halved to £1.25. A 25 per cent reduction has been introduced for commercial vehicles, down to £18.95 per

crossing, and bus services, down to £11.45. But visitors will still have to pay the full charge of £5.40 during the high season. Myrna Scott-Moncrieff, general secretary of Skat, said the non-payment campaign would continue until the Government gave a firm commitment to abolish the tolls completely. Mr Dewar rejected this yesterday.

"We have taken the position of no tolls and we feel we have just reasons for that," she said.

Since the bridge opened in October 1995 more than 500 people have refused to pay and now face criminal charges. Around 80 have been fined for non-payment at Dingwall Sheriff Court which is clogged until Christmas.

The news that Lada cars are no longer to be exported to Britain has prompted a rush to snap up the final 1,000 models of the much-maligned car to go on sale, including the Lada 1200 (above). Lucas Motors International, the company that imported the Russian-built cars, said: "We expect to sell out over the weekend. With so few available, Ladas may well become a collector's item."

I'm backing Blair's Britain, says Caine

Michael Caine, right, has changed his mind about leaving Britain under a Labour Government. Caine told Tony Blair that he would live abroad if Labour imposed high taxes. But yesterday he said he had decided that the Prime Minister had the right ideas, and that "you cannot leave the poor behind".



Caine, 64, told LWT's *The London Programme*: "I had dinner with Tony Blair and I said if he was going to go with 35 per cent taxes again, I was going to leave the country again. I said, 'I'm not paying 35 per cent of my earnings, especially at my age, I've got to save up.' Caine's fortune has been estimated at up to £40 million. He spent several years in tax exile during the last Labour administration in the 1970s. Caine said Mr Blair would help Britain by finding 'jobs for the burglars'.

Hopes rise in BA conflict

The two industrial disputes threatening British Airways' flights inch towards settlement as hopes rose that the 1,400 members of the catering unit that BA wants to sell will accept a deal in a ballot on Tuesday. Delegates of the British Airlines Stewards and Stewardesses Association will meet at the weekend to decide whether to accept arbitration over the separate cabin crew dispute.

Cigarette firms in court

The first group legal action by lung cancer victims against tobacco companies in England cleared its first hurdle yesterday when a High Court judge, Mr Justice May, was appointed to hear the case. Forty-seven people are claiming damages of £50,000 each on the ground that the cigarette manufacturers Imperial Tobacco and Gallaher failed to limit the health risks to smokers.

Business school backed

A postal poll of Oxford dons endorsed plans for a £45 million business school by a five-to-one majority. The vote of 1,290 to 257 secures a £20 million donation from Wafic Said, the Syrian-born businessman, and ends a period of uncertainty after the original plans were rejected in November. Last month the academics' parliament approved the revised proposal by six to one.

Phone ban ruled out

Motorists will not be banned from using mobile telephones while driving, the Government decided yesterday. However, it has promised a campaign to warn drivers against the dangers of using telephones at the wheel. Alan Michael, the Home Office Minister, said that existing regulations enabling police to prosecute drivers who lose control of their vehicle were tough enough.

Rail action cancelled

Industrial action by train drivers working for Connex South Central, which covers destinations including Brighton, Portsmouth, Southampton, Guildford, Eastbourne and Hastings, has been called off. Aslef, the drivers' union, is recommending its members to accept an offer which includes the introduction of a 37-hour working week and changes in work practices.

Times cook honoured

Frances Bissell, *The Times* Cook, has been elected a full member of the Académie Culinaire de France's British chapter, becoming the first woman chef admitted to the organisation in either country. Mrs Bissell, while predominantly a cookery writer, has worked as a guest chef alongside several leading British members, including Herbert Berger at the Café Royal. *Magazine*, page 53

Last laugh for the Lada



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JOHN LEWIS

Feathers fly over the owl of St Paul's



Paula snapped on its eyrie by the RSPCA inspector

Experts clash on wisdom of caging cathedral's free spirit

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE escaped eagle owl that is devouring pigeons at St Paul's Cathedral was the subject of a heated debate yesterday. Should the bird be caught and put in a cage to end its two-year reign of terror above London's streets?

The predator, nicknamed Paula, stands 20in with a 5ft wingspan and has the capacity to kill a dog or small deer. An RSPCA officer who has been tracking the bird for two years caused dismay among fellow experts when he said that he would like to capture it. Inspector Lee Hopgood was winched up on a hydraulic platform to within a few feet of the bird as it perched on a ledge. He told Radio 4's *Today* programme that he had wanted to get it into a cage. "There's a very slim chance of catching it — I would have liked to have done," he said. "The bird gave him a hard stare and flew off.

Sir Christopher Lever, an expert on the introduction of animals into the wild, said he had been shocked by talk of catching the owl. "I was rather concerned to hear that chap say he wanted to catch it and put it in a cage. Why the RSPCA wants to do that I don't know. It is doing no harm to anybody, it isn't injured, why not leave it in peace? It has been around for two years and hasn't yet killed a cat or a dog, so I think the likelihood of it doing so is extremely remote. It is killing pigeons and rats, which could be to be beneficial."

Mr Hopgood believes that the bird, which has leather anklets that



Hopgood: bird would be difficult to catch

prove it was once in captivity, is the one that was spotted in Regent's Park about two years ago and made contact with Max, a male eagle owl, in London Zoo. It was also seen in Camden Parkway. "I would have hoped it was the same bird," he said. "I hope there are not any more flying around."

Simon Tonge, senior curator at London Zoo, said Max and the female owl had hooted at each other and this led the zoo to suspect the female of preying on its other birds. "We had a group of marmosets in a fox-proof enclosure but we found one dead on the other side of the zoo. Eagle owls are quite awesome things and have been known to kill eagles in their nests."

Mr Tonge said there had been a couple of years ago of a large bird of prey swooping down on a dog in Regent's Park but there was no evidence that it was the eagle owl. The birds, which are not native to Britain, have been known to kill dogs and roe deer on the Continent, but experts agree that they have to be very hungry to make such attacks.

The St Paul's owl was thought to be eating squirrels and waterfowl from parks but mainly picking off plump pigeons as they slept. "There's so much plentiful prey, it's on a plate," said Mr Hopgood. "It won't have the need to take anything bigger. It won't take birds in flight, but when they are roosting. They won't hear it coming, it's just 'booh' and there's lunch."

Mr Tonge said that there was no legal reason why a bird that had escaped from captivity should not be caught by someone but he echoed Sir Christopher's view that it was best to leave it alone.

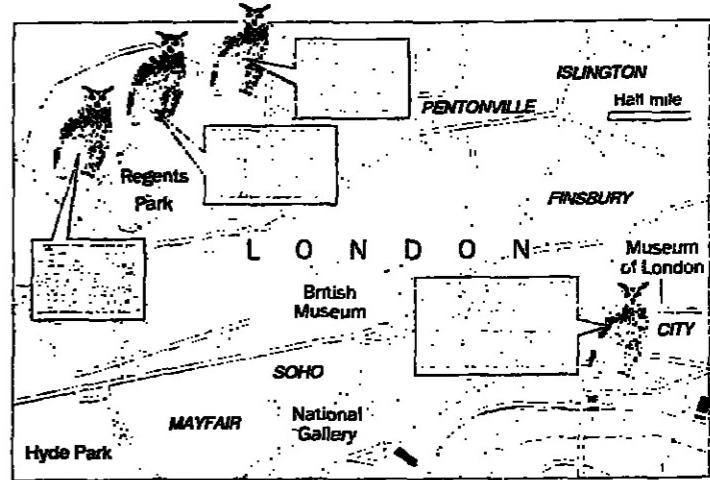
Last night Mr Hopgood conceded that their arguments had merit. "The bottom line is that it is not supposed to be there. But it would be very difficult to catch it, it is obviously coping quite well and it is not a threat to the public." He would continue to monitor the owl every two weeks and would try to catch it only if it was trapped or ill.

He may be in for a long-term relationship. Eagle owls can live to be 30. "It could be around for 20-30 years," he said.

Feather report, Weekend page 13



Max, the London Zoo owl believed to have met Paula



Burglar was expert 'worthy of part on Antiques Roadshow'

By LIN JENKINS

A BURGLAR with a knowledge of antiques that could have earned him a place as an expert on *Antiques Roadshow* led a gang that carried out more than 150 burglaries in country houses, a court was told yesterday.

Nick Stock, 33, of Fareham, Hampshire, pleaded guilty to three charges of conspiracy to burgle and will be sentenced at the end of the trial of nine others alleged to have been involved.

Mr Parish said Stock would reconnoitre during daylight, studying items and dismissing them if he thought they were not genuine.

He was an expert. He could probably star in *The Antiques Road Show*. Stock did not care if people were in or out when he burgled their homes. He got people to cut the telephone or burglar alarm wires and waited to see if doing this alerted the local police. Sometimes he waited until people were at home, because they did not usually switch their burglar alarms on while inside.

Stock used threats and intimidation sometimes to get people to commit the burglary.

The trial continues.



The Quarry Men in 1957: McCartney right of the mike and Lennon to its left

Band that gave birth to Beatles plays again

By CAROL MJDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE Quarry Men, the little-known Liverpool band whose performance at a fete helped to give rise to The Beatles, is reforming for one day today to commemorate the first meeting of John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Forty years ago tomorrow — July 6, 1957 — they met at the Woolton village fete, Liverpool, where the entertainment included the Band Of The Cheshire Yeomanry and the City of Liverpool Police Dogs.

McCartney, then 15, saw Lennon, 16, playing guitar and in the Quarry Men skiffle

group and was impressed by his voice. They struck up an instant friendship and formed the Beatles. But the rest of the line-up went their separate ways and never played together again.

Tonight the former members of the Quarry Men, now in their fifties, will perform at the same venue, St Peter's Church, Woolton. Yesterday Colin Hanlon, 53, the original drummer, who now runs an upholstery business, said: "To be honest, I was never really a very good drummer all those years ago, and I haven't improved since."

In a few days they had met again to play together and their career as a partnership began.

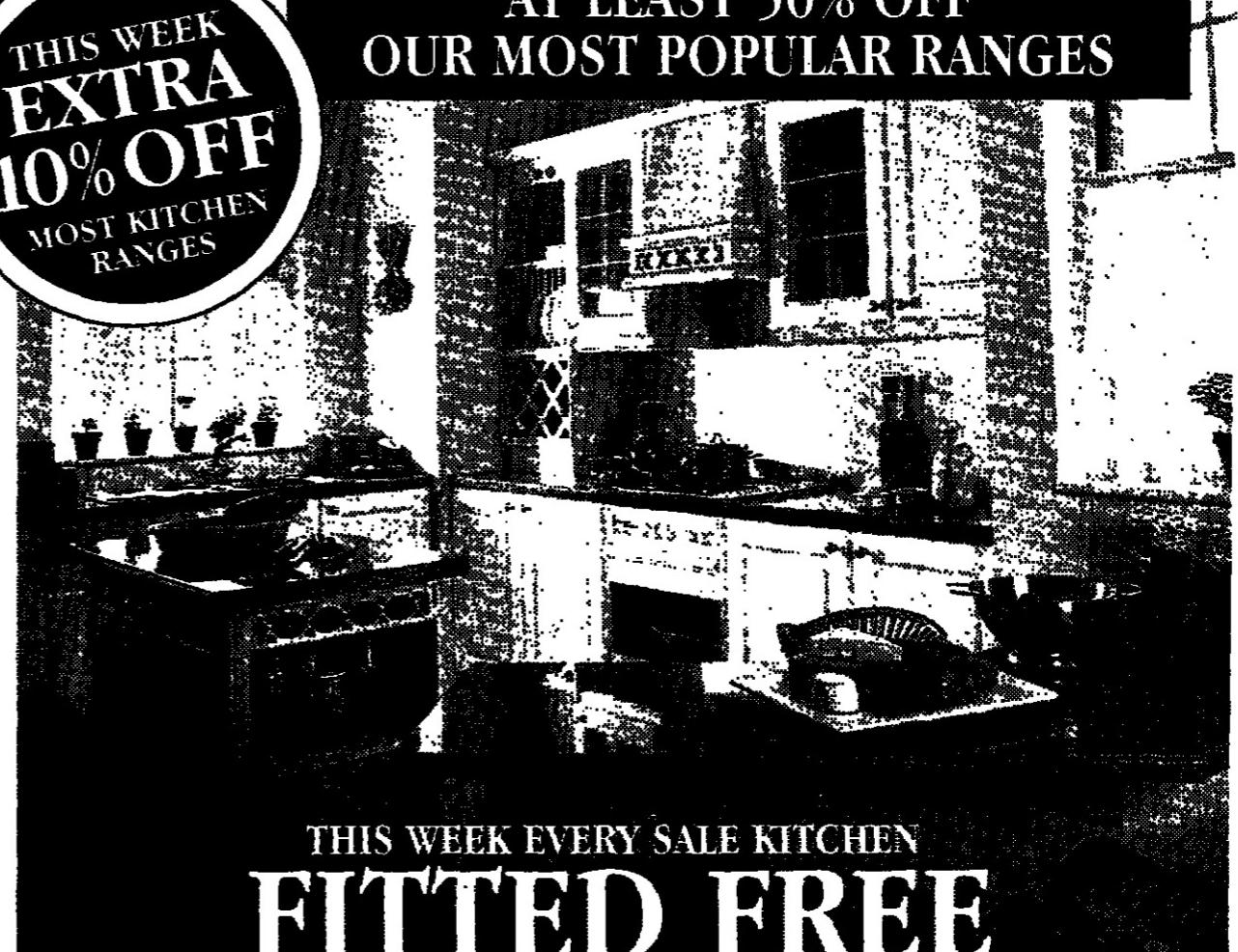
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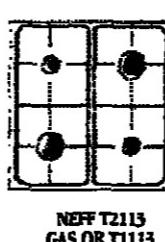
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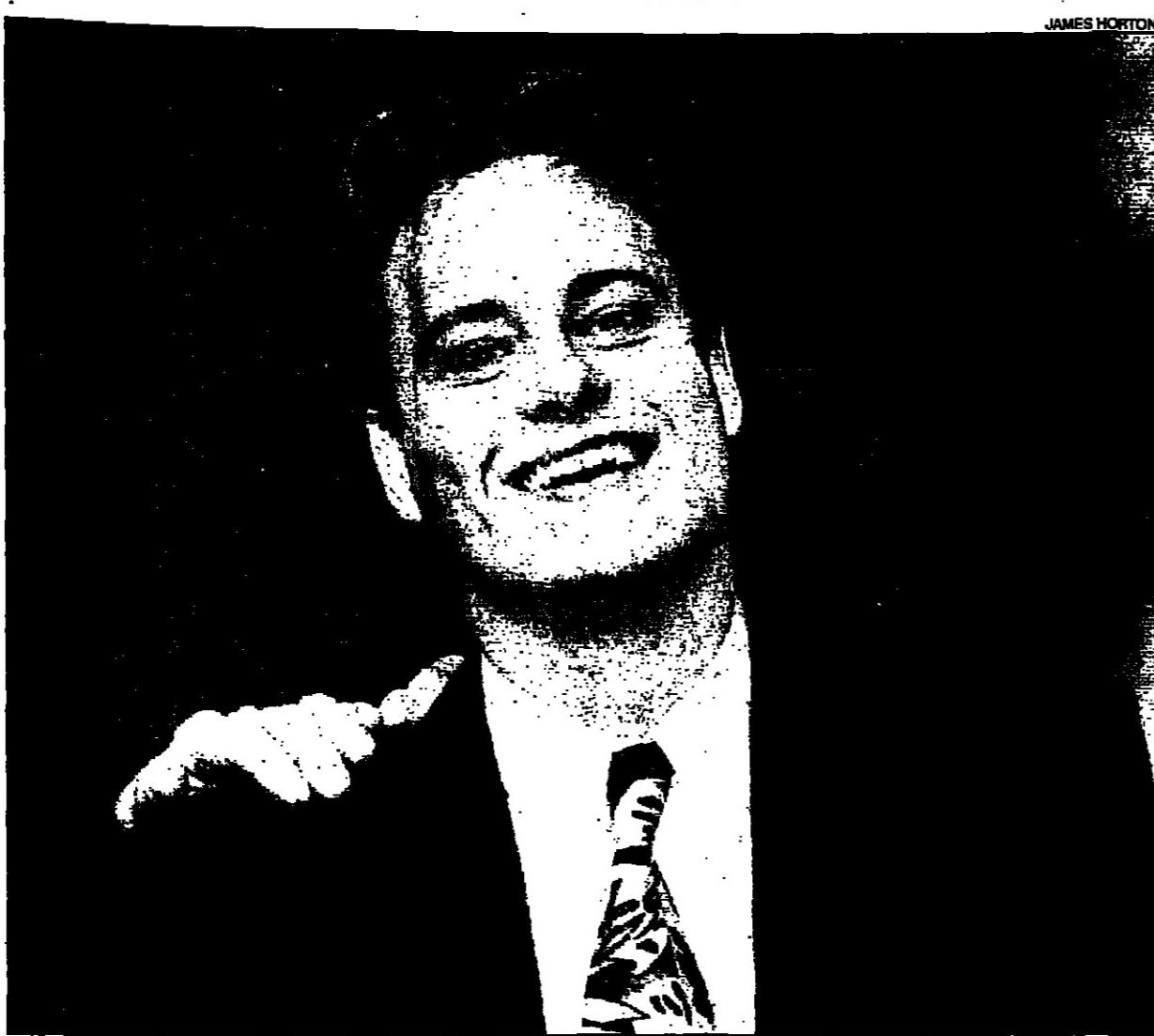
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Paul Esslemont as he left the Court of Appeal yesterday. He wept in the dock when told he would be set free

Conviction for killing boy, 3, ruled unsafe

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MAN walked free from court yesterday after judges ruled that his conviction for killing a three-year-old boy was unsafe. Paul Esslemont, now 21, wept in the dock as the Court of Appeal said that in the light of new evidence his manslaughter conviction could not be upheld.

Mr Esslemont was convicted after the prosecution said that he had half-strangled Carl Kennedy, who lived near him at Willenhall in Coventry, with the child's football shirt, and then hit him 15 times in the face with a golf club. He was acquitted of murder in May 1993 but found guilty of manslaughter by a majority of 10-2 and sentenced to eight years' detention.

Yesterday after a tearful reunion with his family, he said: "I am very relieved by the judgment. It's been an enormous strain on me, my family and friends. I would like to thank them and my legal team for believing in my innocence."

Mr Esslemont said that his life inside jail had involved "a lot of hassle at the start. There were a few physical assaults which weren't too bad, but they still had an effect on me and got me quite depressed. But there were some prison officers who helped me a lot. They were very good to me."

His first appeal was dismissed in March 1994 but an investigation by BBC Television's *Rough Justice* disclosed new evidence which was presented to Michael Howard, the then Home Secretary. He referred the case back to the Court of Appeal.

Mr Esslemont, who was of good character and finishing his GCSEs, maintained his innocence throughout his trial at Birmingham Crown Court. He said that he had been playing with a golf club and golf ball on a recreation ground when Carl asked if he could join in.

Mr Esslemont said he sent him away, later helping with the search for the missing boy and phoning the police. Blood traces found on the club and

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Carl Kennedy: police will not reopen case

blood stains to walking and flicking the golf club through blood-stained grass did not establish a "very compelling account" but did afford a "possible explanation".

The judges said that Mr Esslemont would have had only 15 minutes at the most to carry out the killing and go back to his home, before returning the golf ball that he had borrowed from a neighbour.

Having left the club in the kitchen, when, according to the Crown he cleaned it, he then went back out to chat with the neighbour who was sitting on the doorstep with Mr Esslemont's stepmother.

"There is no evidence that anybody saw anything amiss, either in his manner or in the way of blood on the appellant himself or on his clothing or golf club," Lord Justice Leggatt said.

He added: "Because no pathologist was available to the defence who was prepared to contradict the Crown's evidence about how Carl's injuries were caused, the jury had no option but to assume that they could all have been caused by the appellant's golf club."

West Midlands Police said that they had no plans to reopen the case.

Outside court, Mr Esslemont's father Martin, 46, said: "I want to know why it has taken so long. They had this evidence two years ago."

Rough Justice had screened its programme revealing the evidence in May 1995. He added: "I am very pleased. It has been a long time getting to this stage."

The BBC programme has recently broadcast its twenty-fifth case. Nine prisoners have been released after being featured, and three other cases are being considered by the Criminal Cases Review Commission.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IRA man allowed police bail

A self-confessed IRA man arrested at the Old Bailey after being acquitted of plotting to blow up electricity substations was released on police bail yesterday.

During the trial of eight men accused of plotting the bombing last year, Martin Murphy, 39, told the court he had come to England last July to give other IRA men a written message. He denied knowing its contents and said he had no involvement in explosives. He also denied being a senior IRA member.

Pub thief freed

Norman Wright, 49, a pub landlord from Seisdon, Nottinghamshire, who admitted stealing £2,500 from a Dumblane collection, has been given a four-month suspended sentence by Mansfield magistrates because reports said he might attempt suicide in prison.

West brother held

Graham Letts, 40, brother of Rosemary West, the mass murderer, was jailed for 12 months yesterday at Bristol Crown Court for making a hand bomb call. Letts, of Gloucester, admitted saying that a bomb was at the Beach Hotel in Weston-super-Mare on New Year's day.

Policeman jailed

PC David Keyte, 42, who illegally obtained the names, addresses and sometimes previous convictions of 200 car owners, was jailed for two years by Southwark Crown Court in London. He worked with a former colleague and a private detective to access the police national computer.

Salmonella rise

The number of confirmed cases in the latest salmonella food poisoning outbreak has risen to 48, an increase of 22 cases in the Borders over the previous 24 hours. A further 16 are believed to be infected but are awaiting test results. Most of those affected live in St Boswells.

Mad cat attack

A pet Persian cat suspected by vets of having animal schizophrenia was put down after attacking June Bates, 61, of Langley, Berkshire, and her daughter, Catherine Macrchie, 21, who suffered 90 cuts and scratches. Nurses at first thought the pair had been in a car crash.

Six years for car thief who killed girl

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A DRUNKEN car thief who killed a schoolgirl as she played outside her home was yesterday ordered to be detained for six years. The 17-year-old driver hit Teleri West, 9, when the car mounted the pavement at 60mph.

A court was told that the teenager had drunk eight pints of strong lager before getting into the Vauxhall Nova. Keith Thomas, for the prosecution, said that after the accident the youth staggered from the car and dropped a can of cider on the road. Neighbours heard him sobbing: "Have I hit anyone? I'm going to get life. It's murder. The car is stolen."

Cardiff Crown Court was told that the youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had twice the legal limit of alcohol in his blood. He rounded a corner on the wrong side of the road before mounting the pavement and hitting the girl, who was playing with her friend Sean Rogers, 14, outside her home in Morganstown, near Cardiff.

Mr Thomas told the court: "The car collided with both children and Teleri was thrown high into the air by the impact. She landed on the road and the Nova drove over her and trapped her beneath it." Sean had leg and pelvis injuries.

After the case Teleri's father, Simon Adams, criticised the length of the sentence: "He will serve only four of those six years but Teleri has been taken from us forever. It's an absolute disgrace."

The teenager, from Cardiff, admitted causing death by dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle-taking and driving while disqualified. His lawyer, Stephen Hopkins, told the court: "He showed immediate remorse and says he will never drive again. He comes from a respectable family who will do all they can to help him."

Sentencing the youth to six years in a young offenders' institution, Judge Michael Gibbons QC, said: "This is a sad and unfortunate tragedy. It has ruined many lives and I extend my sympathy to both families."

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مكتاب الأصل



The first Royal Observatory at Greenwich was set up in 1675 by Charles II. Now it may revert to its original title

Closing eye on the sky will save £2m a year

Observatory decision is logical end to 15-year debate, reports Nigel Hawkes

THE closure of the Royal Greenwich Observatory at Cambridge, announced yesterday by John Beddoe, the Science Minister, marks the end of 15 years of argument and indecision.

Up to 100 people will lose their jobs when the work of supporting British telescopes is concentrated at the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh. The savings — £2.4 million a year over the next four years, and at least £4 million a year thereafter — will be used to support research in astronomy at British universities.

Despite its name, the institution being closed is neither an observatory nor is it at Greenwich. It is a modern office building completed seven years ago, which houses 115 staff. The telescopes they use are in Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, Hawaii, and Australia.

The RGO started its life at Greenwich, but polluted skies dictated a move, first to Herstmonceux in Sussex and then, in 1990, to Cambridge. But the RGO had a "counterpart" in Scotland, the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh, where about 100 staff work and since 1992 there have been proposals to save money by merging the two organisations.

The Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council says that the case for con-



Starwatchers working at Greenwich under the first Astronomer Royal mapped the sky to aid navigation

tinuing on one site is very strong and has been recommended by every review. Until now the decision has been dodged. "The case for withdrawing support from the RGO is compelling, the logic is overwhelming, and the result will be better science, better astronomy," says Peter Williams, chairman of PPARC.

Both he and Professor Ken Pounds, its chief executive, said that they greatly regretted the need for redundancies but without change, PPARC

would not be able to go on supporting 31 university groups with grants for astronomy. But he explained that PPARC cannot actually close the RGO, because of its royal title. The royal connection meant PPARC had to gain the approval of the Science Minister, John Battle, to its plans. In a written parliamentary answer yesterday, the minister said that combining the work of Greenwich and Edinburgh in a new UK Astronomy Technology Centre in Edinburgh would better reflect the fact

that the two Royal Observatories were now observatories in name only.

Neil Parker, deputy director of the RGO, said that the decision was "disappointing, to say the least". He said that the RGO had better technology, was better suited to future needs for astronomy, and had a better record than Edinburgh.

It is quite possible that the title of RGO will now be bestowed elsewhere, perhaps back to the original Greenwich Observatory — now known as the Old Royal Observatory — where it started more than 300 years ago. The observatory was founded in 1675, on the orders of Charles II. Its job, and that of John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal, was to map the heavens to help ships navigate.

The building was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and built at a cost of £520,000, defrayed by selling off 690 barrels of Royal gunpowder. In the 19th century the buildings were adapted by the seventh Astronomer Royal, Sir George Airy. It played a major role in the development of timekeeping and navigation; its place in history ensured by the agreement in 1884 that the zero meridian of longitude should be the Greenwich Meridian.

AIRBAGS ENSURE PATHFINDER HAS A CUSHIONED LANDING

Scientists' bouncing baby safe on Mars

By NIGEL HAWKES

MARS Pathfinder used ingenious but untried techniques for landing on the red planet. When it hit the Martian surface, it was designed to bounce several times, wrapped in airbags to break its fall. The descent was timed to last for 4½ minutes but was to be followed by hours of waiting before scientists could confirm that it had landed safely. Pathfinder hit Mars's thin atmosphere at 16,600mph. Two minutes before landing, a large parachute was deployed and 20 seconds later the heat shield was jettisoned.

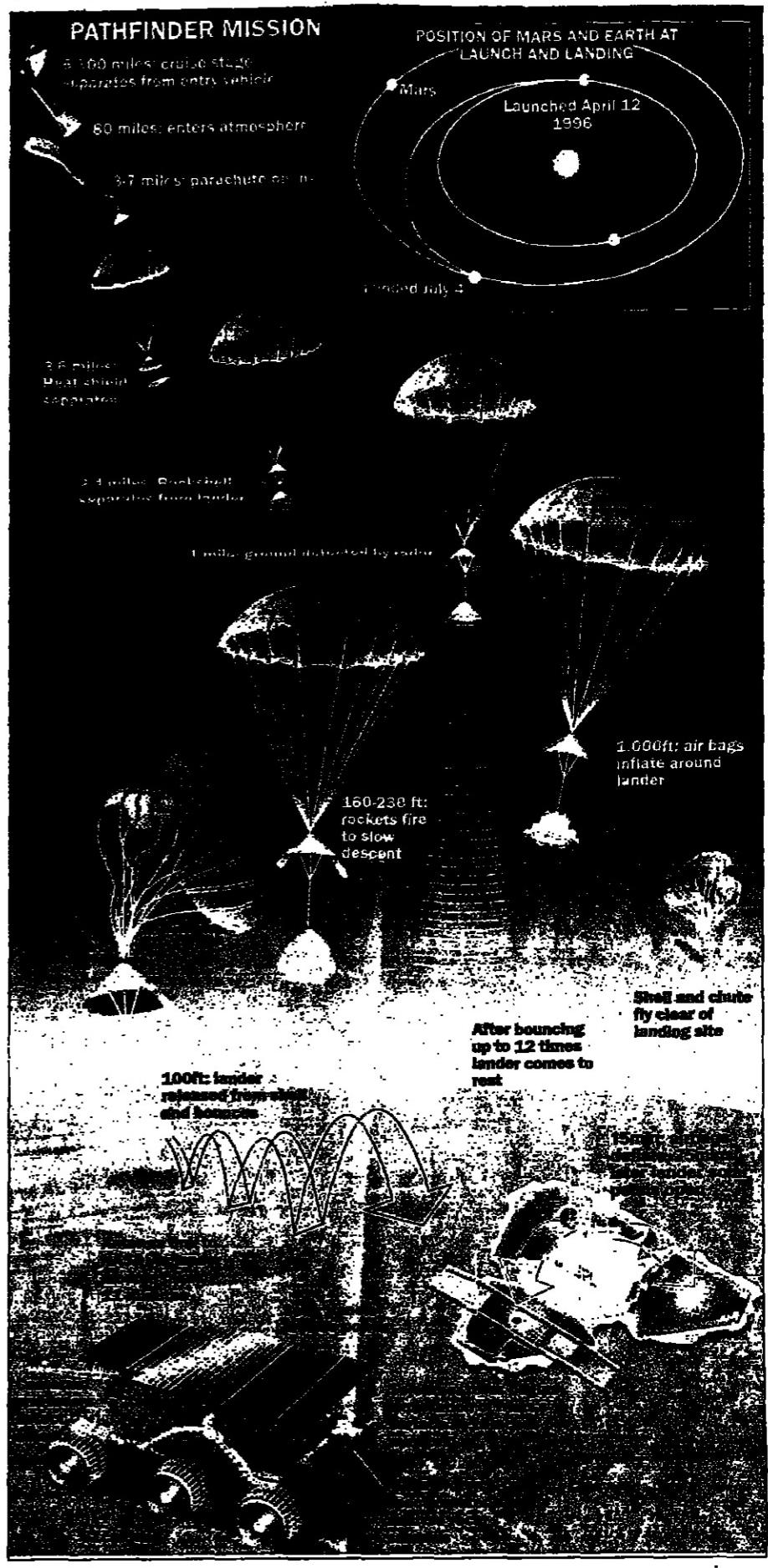
As the spacecraft slowed, four protective airbags, each about 19ft across, were due to inflate, turning the spacecraft into a bunch of balloons. Four retro-rockets fired for a couple of seconds to bring Pathfinder to a virtual halt.

The spacecraft fell the last few feet to the surface, protected by the airbags. Their role complete, the airbags deflated and retracted. In the final step, the spacecraft's petal-like sides opened to ensure that it was the right way up, allowing the rover vehicle to trundle out of its hold and begin exploring.

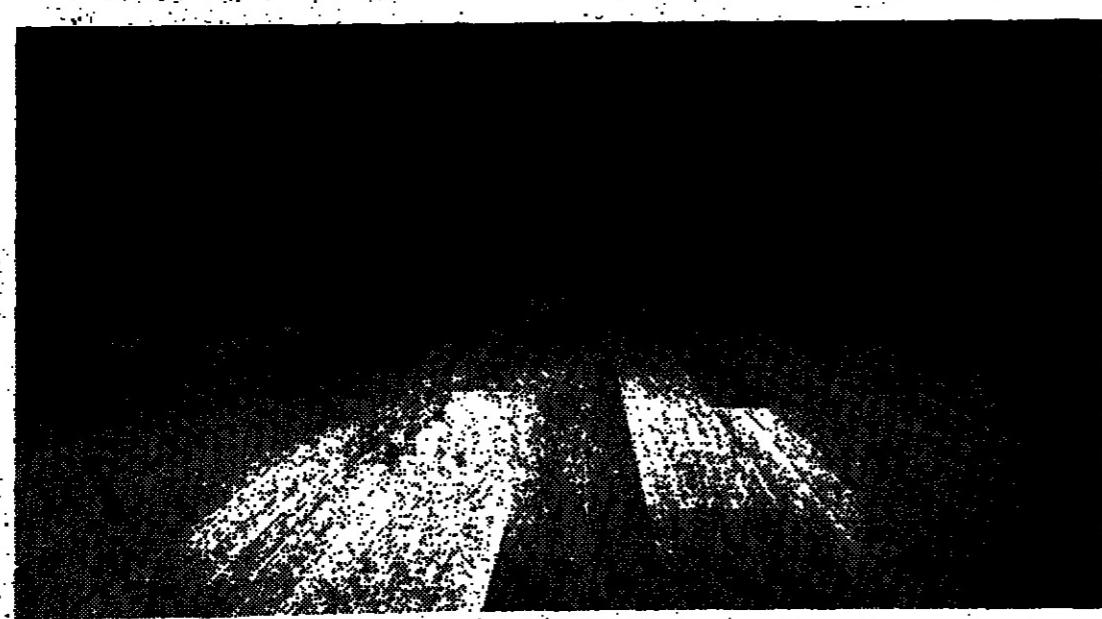
The rover, called Sojourner, is the first wheeled vehicle to move on the Martian surface, driven remotely by mission controllers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

The landing section will send back three-dimensional images of the Martian surface so that the controllers will be able to guide Sojourner across the surface at one or two inches per second.

The vehicle will take colour pictures to identify the rock and soil minerals it encounters. Pathfinder will send back pictures and data on the atmosphere and weather.



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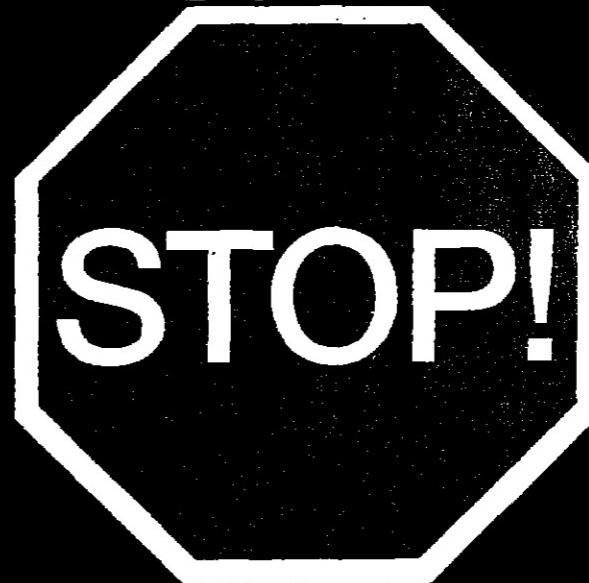
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Probation staff powerless to hold paedophile

BY DANIEL McGROarty

PROBATION officers admitted last night that they are powerless to detain a convicted paedophile who threatened to attack again after he was found after a 24-hour hunt by police.

Graham Seddon, 43, who has said he will attack the first child he finds, moved to south London after neighbours in Liverpool banded him out of the bail hostel where he had been staying.

Seddon, also known as Graham Strideon, had been missing from his temporary accommodation in Brixton. He gave himself up to probation staff after police found him trying to draw his benefit at a DSS office in central London.

Probation officers said last night that they had moved him out of the capital but were having difficulty finding a hostel willing to take him after the public threats to attack again. "We cannot legally hold on to him and now he is the

subject of controversy again nowhere wants responsibility for him," a source for the Probation Service said.

"For the moment he is with us voluntarily but if he wants to go off on his own we nor the police can stop him unless he commits another offence."

Seddon threatened to rape another child immediately after his release from prison in March after serving six years of a ten-year sentence for assaulting a girl aged ten.

He was detained by police weeks later when he was seen stalking children in Liverpool, carrying a teddy bear, toys and colouring pencils.

Seddon has agreed to meet Inner London probation staff, who refused to say last night where they were trying to find him accommodation. "He felt his notoriety meant he could not stay in London and his desire is that no one knows where he goes next," the probation source said.

Seddon has openly confes-



Graham Seddon, has threatened to attack the first child that he finds

sed to his probation officers that because of his uncontrollable sexual urges he still regards himself as a danger.

A psychiatrist in Lancashire who examined Seddon ruled that his condition was not medically treatable and did not fit the criteria for admission to a hospital.

A senior figure in the Greater Manchester probation service who dealt with Seddon's case said: "As a parent I can understand the public disquiet about this man being on the loose. He believes he is a danger to children but as the law stands there is nothing the Probation Service can do about forcibly detaining him.

There needs to be a further change in law so that such sex offenders can be given a supervision order on a prolonged basis so that we can both monitor him and impose some control on his whereabouts."

"This idea needs to be extended to include the likes of Seddon," the probation source said.

The mother who took out an injunction this week against Seddon to prevent him contacting her children was furious when told he had absconded. Lorraine Southern, a mother of three, who campaigns on behalf of a group called People Power said: "I am frightened because somebody's child is going to come to harm with this man on the loose."

Greater Manchester proba-

bility service said yesterday: "We and other agencies put a great deal of effort in making suitable arrangements for this man, including finding him accommodation and offering other support. We are very disappointed he has chosen not to take up these services. However, he is under no statutory supervision and as the law stands, he is free to make his own choices."

Judge orders magazine to return lottery pay documents

BY CAROL MUGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A HIGH COURT judge yesterday ordered a magazine editor to hand back leaked documents which revealed the "fat cat" bonuses of Camelot directors and provoked a national outcry.

Marketing Week carried an article in May which disclosed that some directors had received increases and bonuses of up to 90 per cent, prompting the intervention of the Prime Minister and Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary. Camelot, the National Lottery operator, took legal action against the magazine and began an immediate inquiry, employing security staff to interview employees to identify the "highly-placed" mole.

Mr Justice Maurice Kay ordered the return of the draft papers "in the interests of justice" after Camelot lawyers argued the company needed them to pinpoint the culprit.

He said that an employee had acted in breach of contractual duties and the accounts were stolen. Camelot had a substantial interest in protecting its integrity and the source had leaked the information "unlawfully and in all probability criminally".

The judge said journalistic sources were now protected by law unless disclosure was necessary in the interests of justice or national security. In his judgment he said: "I am satisfied that it is necessary here, in the interests of justice, to override the high public importance accorded to the protection of sources."

The publication of the article in *Marketing Week* led to considerable criticism of the plaintiff and its directors. He said it was well known that the article "incurred the wrath of

the Government". Camelot was forced to hold meetings with the Heritage Secretary "and a blaze of unwelcome publicity" which resulted in the directors agreeing to give some of their October bonuses to charity.

Peter Murphy, financial director of Camelot, had told the court that an internal inquiry had failed to find the source but it was known to be a person working at their offices.

He said: "Until the culprit is identified and removed, suspicions will impede effective management."

Stuart Smith, editor of *Marketing Week*, yesterday said he would appeal against the decision because the case was important to press freedom. "We will exhaust all the legal remedies," he said. "Camelot can not even be certain that the return of these documents would identify the mole. We shall be protecting what is a very valuable source. This was a case with significant implications for press freedom. It pitted corporate privilege against the confidentiality of journalistic sources and unfortunately corporate privilege has won the legal skirmish."

But it is only a skirmish. *Marketing Week* fully intends to win the battle. The documents will not be released to Camelot as we are going to appeal against this judgment."

A Camelot spokeswoman said: "We fully support the freedom of the press but this was not an issue here. This was a highly sensitive document which was leaked and it is important to us for internal security reasons."

Chemists curb sale of vitamin

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HIGH-DOSE vitamin B6 tablets are being taken off chemists' shelves and new legislation will control levels of it in dietary supplements as a result of advice from the independent Food Advisory Committee that guides the Government on food safety.

The committee has found that taken at high levels over a prolonged period the vitamin may cause nerve damage leading to symptoms such as pins and needles, numbness and

clumsiness. Jeff Rooker, the Food Safety Minister, decided to issue a warning about taking too much of it on the advice of the committee. The Royal Pharmaceutical Society has told the 12,500 chemists shops in Britain not to sell it without first warning customers of possible side effects.

"Vitamin B6 is an essential component of people's diets, but, like many things, too much can be harmful," Mr Rooker said.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
BETRAYAL



What was really on Chris Patten's mind on the eve of the handover of Hong Kong to Beijing? No longer governor, he can speak his mind at last about Britain's treatment of the colony's people. Tomorrow he tells Jonathan Dimbleby what he really thinks

THE SUNDAY TIMES
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Conan Doyle's town detects its fortune

Daniel
McGrory on the
case of the
tourism chiefs
who said better
late than never

A SUSSEX town with ambitions to be a big tourist attraction will double its population this weekend as 25,000 visitors descend to celebrate the creator of Sherlock Holmes.

The great detective might have been puzzled at why Crowborough waited so long to cash in on its connections with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who died there during his last 23 years.

Julian Roup, who conceived the idea of the world's only annual Sherlock Holmes festival, said: "Interest in England's greatest sleuth just gets bigger every year and we are sitting on a literary brand name worth millions that is worshipped the world over — and until recently have done nothing about it. For years Baker Street has cashed in and its links are purely fictitious. We are sitting on the real thing."

The inaugural festival last summer made a modest profit, which encouraged this month's much more ambitious effort by the organisers, who foresee the town in East Sussex becoming one of this country's main tourist haunts.

Town traders are aware of the potential rewards, and most shops in the high street are displaying Holmes mem-

orabilia. There is to be a Hounds of the Baskerville dog show where both owner and beast have to pose as a character from the novels. Parties of Japanese tourists will be encouraged to don deerstalker hats and walk the Beacon golf course where Conan Doyle was once cap-

Leading article 21

tain. He was by his own admission such a disastrous player that he regarded golf simply as an excuse to stroll his beloved Sussex Downs.

Holmes, however, was touchy about country life. "It is my belief, Watson, founded upon my experience, that the lowest and vilest alleys of London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than

does the smiling and beautiful countryside," he said in *Copper Beeches*.

Politically correct American visitors will be invited to forget their usual antipathy to smoking and suck on pipes while watching Conan Doyle's old cricket club play a match in period dress between a Holmes XI and the Dastardly Moriartys. Daytrippers can feast on the locally made Sherlock sausage, washed down by a Sherlock Holmes wine that will be uncorked for the first time today.

Not all the local people, however, share this enthusiasm for Holmesmania. Christina Brock, who owns a cobbler's shop where Conan Doyle was a customer, said: "Some shops refuse to advertise the festival and won't decorate their windows, nor dress in Victorian costume. This is meant to put us to the map and boost trade but there are some spoilsports."

Brian Newbury, the mayor, is embarrassed that the town council refused to fund the festival because of what he calls "a private feud". "I think it is a fabulous idea and anything that gets Crowborough noticed must be good for everyone here. Some fear it will ruin the character of the town if we have loads of hotels and



Robert Thorpe, owner of a menswear shop in Crowborough, entering into the spirit in Sherlock Holmes garb

fast-food joints spring up." The festival organisers are optimistic. Apart from attracting many sponsors the town has been given £50,000 of lottery money to assess its tourist potential. Mr Roup, a

public relations consultant who lives in the town, said: "We are not after the bucket-and-spade package tours but tapping into the fast-growing literary tours market."

As well Conan Doyle's

house at Windlesham Manor, which is now a retirement home, his friend Rudyard Kipling lived at nearby Burwash, Virginia. "Woolf at Rodmell, the Bloomsbury Group at Charleston, and Winnie the Pooh country is just to the north. There are 400 Sherlock Holmes societies around the world so if we get a fraction of them it's a lot of money," Mr Roup said.

American academics are booked to attend the Holmes festival and there is a party of Japanese Holmesians returning this year led by Masamichi Higurashi, who is Conan Doyle's translator in Japan. "I enjoyed the first festival so much that I have brought some friends this time and I am sure many more Japanese will come," he said. Mr Higurashi has already given £700 to the town's £20,000 appeal for a bronze statue of Conan Doyle.

The guidebooks boast that the author moved to Crowborough from Surrey in 1907 when he married his second wife, Jean Leckie, whose family lived next door to what was then called Little Windlesham. He added a billiards room and rededicated the house as the manor.

Mr Roup is unrepentant about Crowborough's blatant merchandising, with every-

thing from tea towels to Sherlock dolls on sale. "We should have Sherlock rock if it brings in visitors and revenue," Local traders agree. Elizabeth Streathfield, who has a homemade off statue in her shop window, said: "Anything that generates interest in our town must be brilliant."

Tony Charlton, the festival's chairman and manager of the local supermarket, said: "It will take a few years to build up our reputation as a holiday magnet. But who knows? We could have the Sherlock Holmes hotel built soon and be catering for more visitors than Baker Street."



Conan Doyle spent 23 years in Sussex

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BRITISH AIRWAYS

Sex abuse fears prompt rethink by Methodists

Ruth Gledhill on women's ordeal during the 'peace'

THE Methodist Church is to consider changing its services to prevent sexual harassment during the "peace", when worshippers are urged to hug, kiss or shake hands.

Women have been driven from church, never to return, because of unfamiliarity during the peace, the Methodist Conference meeting in Westminster was told yesterday. It was claimed that women in the Methodist Church were sometimes more sexually vulnerable than in the police force.

The Church is to set up a task force to monitor help for the victims of such abuse, and has agreed a sexual harassment policy based on that used by London Underground. There may also be a helpline for victims of abuse.

Sexual abuse is not thought to be worse in the 1.2 million-strong Methodist Church than in any other church organisation. The Methodists are, however, the first to study the subject in such depth.

A church report found examples of sexual harassment where the minister responsible escaped disciplinary action by resigning. The report urged tough new measures to ensure good behaviour.

Members of the conference

stood for a minute's silence as a mark of sorrow and repentence. The Rev Jane Cook, a former police officer from Darlington, told them how becoming ordained in the Methodist Church made her aware of sexual harassment "far more insidious" than she had encountered in the police.

"I spent some of 1983 sitting in a wood acting as a police decoy in order to arrest a very serious sexual offender. I was confident that I could handle him when he appeared and that back-up and support were

close to hand. My family said I was a sitting-duck. But it was only when I was accepted to train as a Methodist minister that I discovered what it really meant to be a sitting-duck."

One woman, who did not give her name, said she had grown up in a traditional English family where there was little physical contact. "On numerous occasions I have found myself trapped in religious services where one is expected to kiss and hug total strangers. My immediate reaction is to push them away. But you have to endure it with gritted teeth."

The Church studied many policies before deciding that London Underground's came closest to its aims. "It is about what people have the right to expect and what the Church has a duty to provide," a spokeswoman said.

*At Your Service
Weekend, page II*



Christina le Moignan yesterday: she would be Britain's first woman bishop

Appeals for more bishops

CALLS for the introduction of bishops were resisted yesterday by the Methodist Conference, but members agreed to examine the concept of episcopal leadership.

Methodist bishops are appointed in some countries, but in Britain they are called district chairmen. Leslie Griffiths, a past president of the conference, said: "District

chairman does not even begin to describe the work done by the holder of that title."

Such a change would make Christina le Moignan, Birmingham district chairman, Britain's first woman bishop. She opposes the idea: "The word 'bishop' conveys an Anglican or Roman Catholic model that I do not think is true to Methodism."

CLASSIC

Hymns of the past strike a modern chord

Ian Bradley

IT IS significant that the last piece of music played by the British massed bands before the lowering of the Union Flag in Hong Kong should have been a Victorian hymn.

Far more than the earlier renditions of Lloyd Webber's *Memories* and Noel Coward's *'I'll See You Again'*, it was the strains of *The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended* that brought a lump to the throat of those watching Monday's handover ceremony — and summed up the emotional ending of Empire.

Complex and ambiguous feelings that could not be expressed in speeches and parades were given voice in the strains of this familiar hymn. Conceived in 1810 by John Ellerton as he walked home from taking an evening class for the railway workers in his Crewe parish, *The day thou gavest* has unmistakable imperial echoes, with its reminder that, "the sun that bids us rest is waking our brethren 'neath the western sky". It is not surprising that it was chosen by Queen Victoria to be sung in every parish church to mark her diamond jubilee on June 20, 1897.

Hymns, and especially Victorian hymns, continue to give solemnity and dignity to great national occasions. Indeed, in our post-Christian society, it is the tribal chants of this supposedly defunct faith that constitute the nearest we have to a communal folksong. Victorian favourites such as *Dear Lord and Father of mankind; Abide with me; Praise, my soul; the King of heaven* consistently top polls of favourite hymns and remain popular for weddings and funerals.

It is through hymns that most of us get our theology. As people what they remember from a church service and it is unlikely to be the prayers or the sermon. What sticks in the mind are the words and tunes of the hymns. We can thank the Victorians for this. They invented the hymn-book as we now know it, with each hymn given a particular tune, and made those lasting marriages — *O God, our help in ages past; To St Anne, Eternal Father, strong to save; to Melita and Abide with me* — which have helped to implant hymns so deeply into the British consciousness.



Singing those hymns today is not simply to indulge in imperialistic nostalgia, however. *The day thou gavest* warns us that unlike God's reign, "earth's proud empires pass away". That note of provisionalism and reminder of the transitoriness of earthly things is what made it so appropriate for the Hong Kong handover ceremony.

Many Victorian hymns, far from being triumphalist and complacent, tackled difficult doctrines and sound a note of uncertainty. *Lead, kindly Light*, which regularly topped the Victorian hymnological hit-parade but is now a candidate for exclusion from the new Church of Scotland hymn book, is one of the greatest poetic expressions of the theme of doubt-filled faith. John Henry Newman's anguished cry that "the night is dark, and I am far from home" struck a chord with agnostics such as Thomas Hardy and speaks to many in a similar state of confusion today.

Victorian hymns fit uneasily into the age of the easily soundbite, when image is all and content sounds little. They are subtle and mysterious and are packed with ambiguities and nuances while retaining an overarching sense of moral order and purpose. In our brutalised, up-front, post-modern culture, that is exactly why we need them so badly. Their poetry and profundity provides a spiritual depth and integrity missing from many contemporary worship songs.

*The Rev Ian Bradley lectures in divinity at Aberdeen University. His book, *Abide With Me — the World of Victorian Hymns*, was published last month by SCM Press.*

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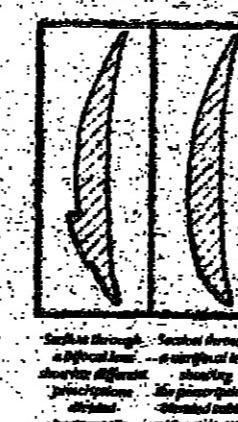
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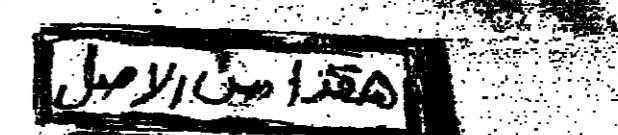
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Wrong sort of rain fails to replenish supplies

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

LARGE areas of southern and eastern England face a third summer of water shortages in 1998 unless there is substantial rainfall this winter, water companies said yesterday.

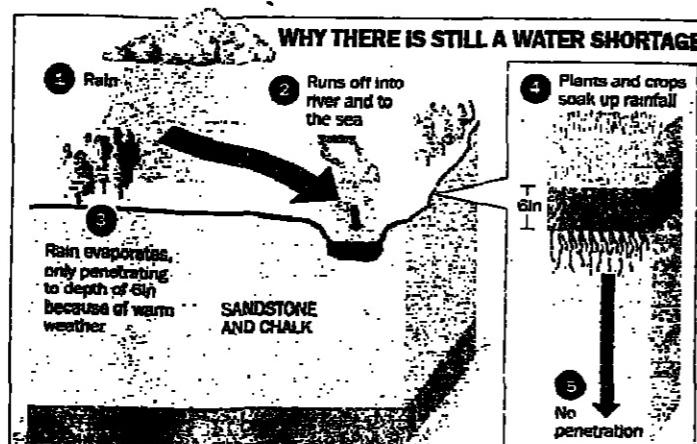
Despite the wettest June since 1860, the rain has failed to replenish underground water sources.

Pamela Taylor, chief executive of the Water Companies Association, which represents the smaller firms, said yesterday that 40 per cent of their supplies came from aquifers and boreholes hundreds of feet below ground.

"June has had a significant impact on demand with customers using 25 per cent less water than in June 1995. River and reservoir levels are in some areas now full. But this summer rain makes no difference to underground water sources," she said.

"These can only be topped up by winter rain because most of summer rain evaporates or is sucked away by plants like the bindweed in my garden," Ms Taylor said.

She said water companies were "keeping their fingers crossed" that further restrictions, such as



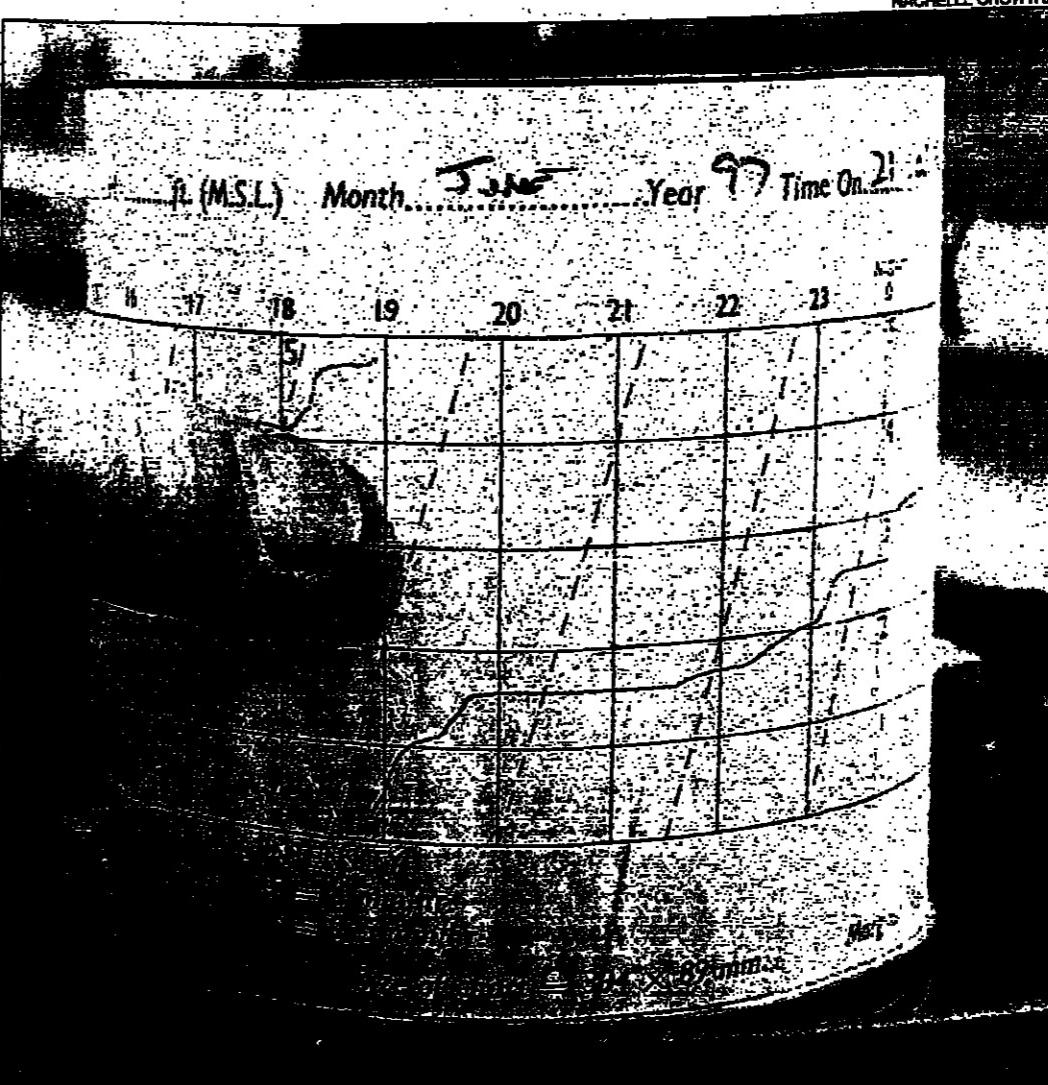
evaporation before it can penetrate down. Mr Tennant said that temperature would be the key to whether more restrictions were needed during the rest of the summer.

Water companies also say that several new reservoirs are needed. But their claims have received a lukewarm response from the Environment Agency and ministers. Critics say that the industry first needs to do more to reduce leaks, curb demand and educate customers to save water.

Mr Tennant disclosed that instead of building new reservoirs, some companies were looking at expanding existing ones by increasing the size of dams and the embankments. He said the South East water company was looking at Ardingly reservoir in West Sussex and Arlington, near Eastbourne.

Such schemes would require planning permission but the applications were likely to be less controversial and time-consuming than those for new reservoirs. He said preliminary studies indicated that expansion of reservoirs might boost their capacity by up to a quarter.

Forecast, page 24



The wettest June on record since 1860 will not have helped to prevent water shortages next year

Witness says woman knew lover had HIV

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

LAWYERS defending the Cypriot fisherman accused of knowingly infecting a British divorcee with AIDS finished their case yesterday with a surprise witness who said Janette Pink had admitted to him she knew her lover was HIV-positive.

Antonis Kombos, a cafe owner, also told the hearing that he had slept with Mrs Pink's daughter while she was under-age, and said that Mrs Pink had an affair with another man.

Mrs Pink, 42, was last night said to be "devastated and disgusted" by the latest attack on her and her daughter, Katherine, now 21. She has denied having an affair with anyone other than Pavlos Georgiou, who is charged with infecting her. Her family strenuously denied the latest allegations.

Mr Kombos, 33, told the Larnaca court on the final day of testimony that when he

warned Mrs Pink that she was with an AIDS carrier she replied: "Yes, I know, I'm dating him."

Mr Kombos told the court that Mrs Pink had had a relationship with another Cypriot, called just Damianos, before that with Mr Georgiou. He said that at the same time he was having an affair with Mrs Pink's daughter and spent nights next door to her and Damianos. "I presume when two people spend the night together, they sleep together," he said.

Mr Georgiou's lawyer, Tassos Economou, earlier told reporters he had tried to persuade Damianos to give evidence, but the man was now married with children and was too embarrassed to face the court. Mr Kombos insisted under cross-examination that he hardly knew the defendant and decided only on Thursday to support his evidence.

Questioned about his relationship with Miss Pink, Kombos said he began seeing her in 1988 but stopped in 1993 when he went abroad. He told the court he did not know her age at the time. The prosecution made no mention of the fact that she would have been 12 in 1988, but said after the hearing they were making further inquiries.

Mr Georgiou has denied knowingly and negligently transmitting the virus and in his testimony claimed that Mrs Pink was a "ymphomaniac" who refused to let him wear a condom. If found guilty he faces two years in prison or a £2,000 fine. The trial was adjourned to July 16.



Pink: disgusted by new claims made in court

Jeans market in need of a turn-up

By TIM JONES

SALES of jeans fell by 2 per cent in the past year, from £1.18 billion to £1.15 billion. Fewer than half of the population bought a pair of jeans, Mintel, the market analyst company, said. Some 43 million pairs of jeans will be bought this year, the lowest figure since the late 1980s, and four million down on the total four years ago.

Sales are likely to decline further because of a projected drop in the number of 15 to 24-year-olds. Since 1992 the average price of a pair of jeans has risen by almost 12 per cent from £24 to £26.86, because of the increasing

popularity of designer makes such as Armani, Guess and Calvin Klein.

Levi's share of the market has dropped by 2.6 per cent in the past year to 21.6 per cent, but Wrangler's has risen by more than 6 per cent. Men, the report shows, are now more likely to buy more jeans than women, and choose more expensive brands.

More than 55 per cent of men bought at least one pair of jeans last year, compared with 43 per cent of women. While most spent less than £50, 18 per cent of men and nearly 12 per cent of women spent more than that.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

Nearly 25% of members opt for cash after Woolwich flotation

Spending boom alarm

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY AND KAREN ZAGOR

CITY fears that the consumer spending boom is set to accelerate again yesterday as it emerged that nearly a quarter of Woolwich Building Society members have decided to sell their free shares immediately in its £5 billion flotation.

The huge self-off will add £1.2 billion to a consumer sector already flush with cash from windfall payouts.

Analysts predicted yesterday that Woolwich shares will reach about 320p in first-day trading, valuing the company at £5 billion, and ensuring that the converting building society's 2.5 million members will share an average payout of nearly £2,000.

About £2 billion has been paid out in windfalls since Alliance & Leicester converted in April. Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank, yesterday raised its estimate of the total payout from building society and insurance company windfalls this year to £37 billion from an original prediction of £20 billion. It says that the windfall bonanza will boost personal disposable income by about 0.5 per cent this year.

The scale of the latest payout will increase pressure on the Bank of England to raise rates sharply to curb consumer demand. Economists predict that the Bank could increase rates as much as half a point when its monetary policy committee meets next week as the Budget failed to include substantial rises in consumer taxes.

The pound, which has soared since Wednesday's Bud-

get on expectations that rates are set to rise again, moved to new highs again yesterday. Sterling's trade-weighted index hit a seven-year high of 104.7, while the pound hit a six-year high against the mark of DM2.9687.

But the stock market failed to capitalise on recent gains, closing down 18.9 points at 4,812.8 as profit-taking set in. Dealers said the market is likely to be more cautious next week before the Bank's meeting, after this week's 4.5 per cent rise.

Some 23 per cent of Woolwich members have indicated that they will sell their shares at once through the share sale facility. Those shares will be auctioned to institutions on the first four days of next week with about 5.8 per cent to be sold on the first day.

Qualifying members of the society, which is converting to a bank, will receive at least 450 shares each. The average allocation is 657 shares, according to the Woolwich, which has 5.5 per cent of the mortgage market and 4.1 per cent of retail savings and is Britain's fifth-biggest lender. It is expected to join the FTSE 100 after the next review in September.

The World Gold Council yesterday launched a stinging attack on the Reserve Bank of Australia after news that it had made a major gold sale sent prices to a 12-year low.

The council called the bank's sale of 167 tonnes unnecessary and lacking in sensitivity.

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But the stock market failed to capitalise on recent gains, closing down 18.9 points at 4,812.8 as profit-taking set in. Dealers said the market is likely to be more cautious next week before the Bank's meeting, after this week's 4.5 per cent rise.

Some 23 per cent of Woolwich members have indicated that they will sell their shares at once through the share sale facility. Those shares will be auctioned to institutions on the first four days of next week with about 5.8 per cent to be sold on the first day.

Qualifying members of the

society, which is converting to a bank, will receive at least 450 shares each. The average allocation is 657 shares, according to the Woolwich, which has 5.5 per cent of the mortgage market and 4.1 per cent of retail savings and is Britain's fifth-biggest lender. It is expected to join the FTSE 100 after the next review in September.

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Brussels rejects Boeing/McDonnell merger

BY OLIVER AUGUST

THE European Commission yesterday increased the likelihood of a trade war with the US by rejecting the \$15 billion merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas, the two US aerospace groups. The Commission said it opposed the merger because it would damage Airbus Industrie, the European consortium that includes British Aerospace.

Competition representatives from the 15 EU member countries agreed at a meeting in

Brussels to oppose the merger unless the US groups offer concessions over supplier deals with three US airlines. The deal was unconditionally approved by the US Federal Trade Commission on Tuesday. An EU Commission spokesman said: "If adequate remedies are not offered the proposed concentration should be prohibited." He added that US concessions offered so far were "not sufficient" to win approval under EU anti-trust regulations. The merger was announced last December and is in the final stage of completion.

The competition representatives unanimously agreed with Karel van Miert, the EU Competition Commissioner, that the merger would give Boeing a near-monopoly position in the aircraft industry. The commission spokesman said: "Commitments offered so far by Boeing are not sufficient to prevent such a strengthening of their dominant position."

Boeing said that it was very disappointed with the ruling, but that it would continue talks next week before a meeting of EU Commissioners on July 23. A Boeing spokesman said: "We would obviously like to finish this as soon as possible but there is room for further talks."

The Commission is known to have two main concerns about the merger. First, in civil aviation the combined group would have a market share of about 70 per cent worldwide and supply spare parts to over 90 per cent of aircraft more than 100 seats. Secondly, the consolidation of defence activity in the US is threatening independent arms manufacturing in Europe.

Mirror Group pays £297m for Midland newspaper publisher

BY ERIC REGULY

THE Mirror Group became the dominant newspaper force in the Midlands yesterday with an agreement to buy Midland Independent Newspapers, publisher of *The Birmingham Post* and *Eve-ning Mail*, for £297 million.

The Mirror is paying 210p a share for MIN, a premium of 41 per cent to the price on June 16, the day before the two companies were forced to reveal their merger talks. MIN was floated at 140p in 1994 and has rarely climbed above that level recently.

MIN shareholders have the option of taking cash or a partial share alternative. Mirror Group will issue no more than 60 million new shares, equivalent to 14.3 per cent of the number of shares in issue. Yesterday, it bought 25 per cent of MIN from existing shareholders.

Analysts said the purchase was neither a bargain nor unusually expensive. The price is equivalent to 14.2 times historic operating earnings. Johnston Press, by comparison, paid 16.1 times earnings for Emap's regional newspapers.

David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group, owner of *The Mirror*, the second-largest daily tabloid, the *Daily Record* in Scotland and the Live TV cable channels, said the merged group would make initial annual cost savings of £5 million.

Some of the savings will come from reducing adminis-

tration costs and large bulk purchases of newsprint. He would not rule out redundancies, but said that the initial £5 million in savings did not include job losses. MIN has about 2,000 employees.

Mirror said the acquisition would enhance earnings in the first year of ownership. Mirror shares rose 141p to 200p yesterday while MIN closed at 195p, up 7p. A rival offer is not expected, although most newspaper groups, including the Telegraph and Newsquest, owner of the Westminster Press chain, took a close look at MIN.

MIN expects to reveal pre-tax profits, before exceptional items, of £13.2 million in the half-year to the end of June, up 59 per cent over the same period last year.

It will pay an interim dividend of 2p as well as a second interim dividend of 3p late this year or early next year. The takeover, which requires government approval, probably will not be completed until December.

MIN's directors owned only about 1 per cent of the equity. Chris Oakley, the chief executive of MIN who is to become a Mirror Group director, will make about £450,000 from the deal.

Sir Norman Fowler, chairman of MIN, will become the chairman of a new Mirror Group board for the Midlands region.

David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group, owner of *The Mirror*, the second-largest daily tabloid, the *Daily Record* in Scotland and the Live TV cable chan-



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David Montgomery gets his hands on The Birmingham Post with an offer for MIN

Thorn sets aside £30m for rentals withdrawal

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM
RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

THORN, the troubled rentals group, is to set aside £30 million to withdraw from its loss-making domestic rentals businesses in France, Benelux and Finland. The closures will lead to the loss of 500 jobs.

Thorn also said it has sold its 29-store Canadian business for an undisclosed sum to RTO Enterprises, Canada's largest rent-to-owner operator.

Withdrawal from France, Benelux and Finland will be over the next two to three years. In the year to March 31 the 64 stores concerned lost about £3 million on turnover of just over £40 million. The cash impact of the £30 million provision is expected to be more than offset by operating cashflow generated over the withdrawal period.

Thorn has been beset by problems since emerging from EMI last year. At the end of May it announced it was setting aside £17.1 million to cover the cost of damages it may have to pay after losing a legal action in the US. Earlier in the year it said it would close 90 of its smaller UK Radio Rentals outlets. The company said yesterday that it is responding to challenging trading conditions with actions underway to improve cash generation and investment returns.

The shares, which began at 408p on its demerger last August, closed at 175p yesterday, up 3p.

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Oftel orders BT to lift charge card tariff

OFTEL, the phone regulator, using its new powers under the fair trading condition in British Telecom's licence, yesterday ordered BT to cease running its charge card business at a loss because it said it was acting as a barrier to competition. Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Telecommunications, said: "From figures provided by BT, it is clear that their current revenues from charge cards do not cover the cost of running the service... The low retail prices set by BT mean other operators cannot compete on equal terms."

BT controls some 92 per cent of the charge card market, which last year made a loss of £8.7 million on turnover of £16 million. Mercury's charge card has only 7 per cent of the market. BT was charging an average 11p a minute for inland charge card calls. The company said that, from August 7, it will implement a single, 20p a minute rate for inland direct-dialled calls.

Transworld buys AllMed

ALLIED MEDICARE, the nursing and home care services provider, has been bought by Transworld Healthcare for £36.2 million. Transworld is the British subsidiary of Transworld Inc, the US company chaired by Timothy Aitken. Allied Medicare was founded 25 years ago by Vanessa Griffiths, who is selling the company. Transworld intends to expand the business in the South East. Transworld Inc recently bought Omnicare, the AIM-listed home healthcare provider.

Insurers to merge

GERMANY'S second-largest primary insurer is to be created through the merger of Munich Re with Victoria Holding. The new group will be called Ergo and will have a total premium income of DM2 billion. Investments will exceed DM100 billion and annual profits will be DM300 million, based on combined 1996 results. The group's size will be second only to Allianz, which last year had global premium income of DM74.6 billion. Existing brand names will be retained.

Rover offers pay deal

ROVER, the carmaker, will guarantee its 39,000 workers a 3.5 per cent annual pay rise for the next three years. The deal comes after five days of talks and has union backing. The 3.5 per cent rise in November will be followed by inflation plus 0.5 per cent or 3.5 per cent, whichever is higher, in each of the next two years. An extra 1 per cent will be paid from November to those with a year's service. Rover also wants to replace the profit-related pay scheme with a holiday bonus.

Fortune seeks £23m

FORTUNE OIL, the Hong Kong lubricants and fuel distribution group with shares listed in London, has launched a £23.4 million cash call to fund a joint venture in China. Fortune will work with the China Aviation Oil Supply Corporation to provide aircraft refuelling services at up to 16 civilian airports. A 3-for-14 rights issue of 234 million shares at 11p will provide £12.1 million to help finance the venture and £3.5 million to build a petrol station chain. The rest will pay off debt.

MEPC's £30m buy

MEPC, the property group that rebuffed a merger proposal from Hammerson four months ago, has announced the £30 million acquisition of the long leasehold of Priory House and Cannon House in central Birmingham from City Site Estates. The 27,800 sq metre property currently houses branches of NatWest Bank and Sharelink and generates about £3 million a year. The purchase price represents an initial net yield of 9.25 per cent.

British Borneo deal

BRITISH BORNEO, the independent oil and gas company, yesterday agreed to buy BHP Petroleum's interests in two North Sea blocks. One has already produced 200 million barrels of oil, and British Borneo hopes that new drilling techniques could turn it into a commercial development. The company has completed a separate deal to buy a 20 per cent stake in one of Mobil's blocks, containing oil and gas. It says it will continue with deep water drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dougan backs Mackie call

BY FRASER NELSON

PAT DOUGAN, who resigned as chairman of Mackie International last month, is backing the troubled textile machinery company's £5.25 million cash call with £1 million of his personal fortune.

Mr Dougan, who was brought in by the Government to rescue the company from near-collapse six years ago, has promised to buy the new shares if the company fails to find any other buyers. The

agreement will confound City analysts, who suggested that Mr Dougan left on acrimonious terms when Sui Sahota, its new chief executive, discovered a £7.2 million loss for 1996 against the reported £400,000 loss.

Mr Dougan left at the same time as Shaun Harte, finance director. Peter Long, Mr Sahota's predecessor, resigned in March.

Mr Dougan, who is credited

with bringing Mackie from the brink of insolvency to flotation, remains the company's largest single shareholder with a 2.3 per cent stake now worth £88,000.

He brought the company to the market at 77p a share four years ago. New shares are being issued on a two-for-five basis at 20p apiece.

The shares jumped from 22.5p to 28p on their return from suspension yesterday.

PGA off the fairway

BY JASON NISSÉ

MARK McCormack, who is set to make £9 million by attracting sponsors to the Millennium Experience in Greenwich, yesterday saw more than £1 million wiped from the value of his investment in PGA European Tour Courses, the London-listed golf course company of which he is a director.

The fall came as PGA — which owns courses in the UK, Sweden and Portugal —

gave a profit warning and announced the departure of Sean Kelly, who joined the group as managing director only last year.

PGA shares have lost nearly half their value since Mr McCormack and Richard Thompson, the former chairman of QPR, sold their golf course interest to the company last year. They fell 8.5p, to 51.5p, yesterday. Mr McCormack's IMG has a 19.3 per

cent stake in PGA and Mr Thompson's investment company holds 22.9 per cent.

The departure of Mr Kelly — who is expected to receive a £200,000 payoff — makes him the third executive director to leave PGA in less than three months. Andrew Oliver resigned in April, and he was followed soon after by Rupert Horner, the finance director.

Mr Thompson is to become executive chairman.

Conran takes his recipe to America

BY DOMINIC WALSH

SIR Terence Conran, the design guru and restaurateur, has moved quickly to boost his earnings after a judge's ruling on Thursday that he must provide his third wife with a £10 million divorce settlement.

Sir Terence, who has changed the face of the London restaurant scene with eateries such as Quaglino's and Mezzo, has signalled his intention to do it all over again across the Atlantic.

Joel Kissin, managing director of Conran Restaurants since its inception in 1991, is moving to New York to oversee ambitious US expansion plans.

The first establishment is due to open next year at the Bridgemarket development near Manhattan's 59th Street. It will house a Quaglino-style modern brasserie, a

more upmarket 100-seat dining room and a Conran Shop. Mr Kissin, who recently oversaw the opening in London of the £10 million Bluebird restaurant and cookmarket complex, in Chelsea, will remain a director of, and shareholder in, the UK company and is taking a minority stake in the US business. He said the business was at an early stage, but added: "Clearly, I'm not going out there just to do one restaurant, and there is every possibility that we may end up opening as many as we have here. In fact, we may slide in a smaller one before Bridgemarket."

In the UK, Conran's plans centre on turning its Zinc Bar & Grill concept into a chain. The first 100-cover unit is to open next month just off Piccadilly, in central London.

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It's in the bag

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

PROFILE 27

A WORKING WEEK FOR: BRIAN GILBERTSON

Carl Mortished meets the man behind the transformation of a stodgy conglomerate as he prepares it for a \$1bn share offering

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

THERE is a tale that is told when you mention Brian Gilbertson to a fellow South African. When the chairman of Genkor arrives by helicopter at the mining group's Johannesburg headquarters, the staff are said to murmur: "The ego has landed." Sadly, the man does not quite live up to the stereotype.

By rights, a mining boss should be big-headed, callously sweeping the earth and people from his path as he pursues that ounce of yellow metal. Yet Brian Gilbertson is remarkably reserved: a polite man and reluctant speaker who will reveal, if pressed, a dry sense of humour. He is in London for what will be the crowning achievement of his career — the launch of Billiton, the demerged non-precious metals arm of Genkor, the South African mining group.

It is an astonishing story of a huge investment gamble made with other people's money in a period of political turmoil. It is also about the transformation of a stodgy Afrikaans conglomerate into a world-class mining company. The gambles have paid off and the demerged Billiton is now preparing for an international share offering to raise \$1 billion, but the significance has to be teased out of Gilbertson. He insists: "In a sense it was a gamble, but I emphasise that we did the most careful calculations."

When Gilbertson joined Genkor in 1989, the company was a typical South African outfit with interests in oil, paper products and finance, as well as mining. Like most conglomerates, the group was valued by the market at a discount to the sum of its parts and a debate grew up about its future. Genkor was then run by Derek Keys, but in 1992 Gilbertson found himself in the driving seat.

He said: "Derek went to play golf with President de Klerk and when he came back he said he was going to become the Minister for Trade and Industry. To my total astonishment — I mean that seriously — I became chairman."

Gilbertson took over in the middle of a huge and, at times, very public debate initiated by Keys over whether Genkor should "unbundle" — shed its non-mining interests, including Engen and Sappi, and focus on the business of extracting gold, platinum and coal from the ground. "It was the first important decision I had to make," he remembers. Genkor's two big shareholders, Sanlam and Rembrandt, the Afrikaans institutions, went along with his decision to unbundle.

"Within 15 minutes of the shareholder resolution to go forward, I delivered my letter of resignation to the other companies. Engen asked me to stay on, but the others were pleased to see me go," he says with a smile. He found himself with

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has been groomed as a rival to Anglo-American. As one analyst jokingly puts it: "My enemy's enemy is my friend."

The Genkor building reveals a bit more about Brian Gilbertson and perhaps what lies behind the anecdote about helicopters and eggs. However, the explanation is not what you might expect. Like most established companies, Genkor had an art collection — a predictable series of landscapes of South Africa and lots of wildlife nothing out of the ordinary for a mining company.

But a new company with a new building in a country undergoing radical change needed something different. So Genkor hired a consultant artist to help to commission a new collection. Kendall Geers wanted to reflect South Africa's transition from the old to the new and Gilbertson liked the idea. But the combination of mining corporation and an artist with a subversive reputation caused some sparks to fly.

The first purchase, a painting by William Kentridge, was indicative of what was to come — a dark and brooding Johannesburg street scene with a long line of protesters carrying red banners. Painted to represent the period in 1990 when marches were first legalised, the piece was displayed at the time of the disastrous Inkatha march on the ANC headquarters in Johannesburg and almost caricatured the anxieties of white South Africans before the elections. More works followed, including one in which a landscape is being crushed by what looks like a towering lump of coal, the piece being entitled *A nicely built city never resists destruction*.

Engaged Genkor employees stuck office memo labels over certain paintings considered pornographic, but, in the midst of all the outrage, Gilbertson refused to ban any of the works, although some of the more controversial pieces have ended up in his own office.

Having challenged established notions of good taste, Gilbertson went further and embarked on a financial and corporate adventure that was to be more far-reaching than the unbundling of Genkor. Gilbertson comments: "We realised that South African groups which had been leaders were slipping behind because they could not operate internationally."

His opportunity came in 1994 as Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil group, decided to divest its loss-making metals divisions. "It was difficult. Two billion dollars' worth of assets — but all we had was \$300 million offshore," remembers Gilbertson. To make matters worse, the core of Billiton's

portfolio was aluminium, a metal that was plumbing new depths as Russian producers dumped stockpiles in a desperate search for dollars. "Aluminium was dropping like a brick and analysts were saying we should not touch this, but we made a judgment that \$1,200 per tonne was simply not a viable long-term price," Gilbertson explains.

Securing finance proved an almost insurmountable obstacle as exchange controls prevented Genkor from funding the deal and the banks were wary of backing a myriad of joint ventures scattered across the globe. There was no company, no audited track record

and no balance sheet. In the end, Genkor persuaded Shell to fill the gap in the short term by subscribing to a \$300 million bond issue and Genkor bought Billiton for \$1.2 billion.

Gilbertson's team budgeted the deal on the assumption of "disaster", that the aluminium price remained flat for three years, but no sooner was the contract signed than the aluminium producer nations signed an agreement restraining production and the aluminium price soared. Genkor paid off the Billiton debt in short order and prepared to float the business in London.

Gilbertson appears a bit nervous about the planned investor roadshows, not least in America with the complex SEC disclosure rules, alien to a South African used to the friendly Johannesburg ex-

change. However, there are reasons why Billiton may face a difficult ride in the international arena after so much success. Base metal prices are high and some analysts reckon that Billiton will be selling shares at the peak of the cycle, making it difficult to persuade investors that they should buy stock in a debt-free company, investing in mining assets at what may be the top of the market.

Gilbertson, aged 53, seems to be in a hurry. Genkor has done well in the new South Africa, enjoying such close relations with the Government that it was able to reclassify core South African assets as foreign components of the demerged Billiton. In the wider world, it will enjoy no such political favours, but Gilbertson is used to turmoil. In fact, he seems to thrive on it.

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Empty chair

SOME lackey from Hambros was refusing to admit this last night, but it is a truth universally acknowledged that the City that the bank is looking for a new chief executive. This is because on July 22, at the annual meeting, Lord Hambro, will retire and Sir Chips Keswick, deputy chairman and chief executive, steps up. Hambros, quite sensibly, appointed headhunters while back to find a new chief executive, and don't ask me why they won't admit it now. But I understand there has been a bit of a problem finding candidates. It could be to do with various other high-profile City jobs still vacant. More likely, it is the Lanica factor. The bank's own internal inquiry into its support for the Andrew Regan bid for the Co-op is due out any time. Various watchdogs, such as the Bank of England and the Securities and Futures Authority, are also taking an interest. Not exactly tempting, is it?

• **OVERHEARD** at a Westminster cocktail party: a new Labour MP was asked about the potential threat to Britain's booming economy — killing the goose that laid the

I WAS sitting next to a head of my desk. Credit Lyonnais' Laing again, always keen on an eye-catching cover, has a Budget commentary which features a rather good cartoon of Blair, Cook, Brown et al as the Spice Girls. Meanwhile EBW's own equity strategy commentary carries the simple headline "Bonkers".

• **LOW/NO PAY** The Low Pay Commission, under the leadership now of George Bain of the London Business School, needs you. But only if you are a City professional with experience in employment law, perhaps.

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• **PEACE TALK** QUITE the little Acas, the BBC these days. On Thursday the Today programme persuaded Bill Morris of the transport union and Bob Aylott of British Airways to sit down in a little cubbyhole at Broadcasting House and settle their differences — in vain, as it turned out. Yesterday morning, The Business Breakfast brought in Allan Black of the GMB union and Malcolm Fordy of the Construction Confederation to talk about the looming building workers'



Professor Bain is looking for members to serve as commissioners and help to set the minimum wage. No shortage of trade union members. But the commission is, in particular, after one or two City types with the necessary legal experience. Might serve as a useful cap to a successful career, but there is no money in it — expenses only, I'm afraid.

• **FREAK STORMS** was the excuse for the collapse of all phone lines into the Norwich Union yesterday and the day before — all except the car phone of Allan Bridgewater, the chief executive, for some reason. Funny enough, The Times has been inundated with complaints that the company's helpline was unavailable for some days now — come rain or shine.

Peace talk

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Hodgson: his rise... and fall



Brian Gilbertson is in Britain for the launch on the London market of Billiton, the demerged non-precious metals arm of Genkor, the South African mining group

disastrous Inkatha march on the ANC headquarters in Johannesburg and almost caricatured the anxieties of white South Africans before the elections. More works followed, including one in which a landscape is being crushed by what looks like a towering lump of coal, the piece being entitled *A nicely built city never resists destruction*.

Engaged Genkor employees stuck office memo labels over certain paintings considered pornographic, but, in the midst of all the outrage, Gilbertson refused to ban any of the works, although some of the more controversial pieces have ended up in his own office.

Having challenged established notions of good taste, Gilbertson went further and embarked on a financial and corporate adventure that was to be more far-reaching than the unbundling of Genkor. Gilbertson comments: "We realised that South African groups which had been leaders were slipping behind because they could not operate internationally."

His opportunity came in 1994 as Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil group, decided to divest its loss-making metals divisions. "It was difficult. Two billion dollars' worth of assets — but all we had was \$300 million offshore," remembers Gilbertson. To make matters worse, the core of Billiton's

portfolio was aluminium, a metal that was plumbing new depths as Russian producers dumped stockpiles in a desperate search for dollars. "Aluminium was dropping like a brick and analysts were saying we should not touch this, but we made a judgment that \$1,200 per tonne was simply not a viable long-term price," Gilbertson explains.

Securing finance proved an almost insurmountable obstacle as exchange controls prevented Genkor from funding the deal and the banks were wary of backing a myriad of joint ventures scattered across the globe. There was no company, no audited track record

and no balance sheet. In the end, Genkor persuaded Shell to fill the gap in the short term by subscribing to a \$300 million bond issue and Genkor bought Billiton for \$1.2 billion.

Gilbertson's team budgeted the deal on the assumption of "disaster", that the aluminium price remained flat for three years, but no sooner was the contract signed than the aluminium producer nations signed an agreement restraining production and the aluminium price soared. Genkor paid off the Billiton debt in short order and prepared to float the business in London.

Gilbertson appears a bit nervous about the planned investor roadshows, not least in America with the complex SEC disclosure rules, alien to a South African used to the friendly Johannesburg ex-

Thought for the day

Should you be
Browned off about
your pension?
Talk to an IFA.

It's estimated* that post-budget a 30 year old planning to retire at 60 can expect 15% less pension. If you'd like to know if Mr Brown's abolition of ACT tax credits will leave your pension provision in the red, an IFA can tell you. Call for the names of three IFAs near you. With your first half hour consultation free, the task will be less taxing still.

0117 971 1177

One phone call. Three approved IFAs near you. Free unbiased advice.
Or call in where you see the blue sign.



Yes please. I think I'd like to know more about talking to an IFA. Please send me my information pack, the names of three local IFAs and a voucher for my half hour free consultation. I understand that no one will call me as a result of filling in this coupon. The address is IFA Promotion Limited, 17-19 Finsbury Road, Finsbury, London EC2M 5PF
Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____ Telephone _____

See an IFA



SOURCE: PFI 1997. THE ADVERTISING APPROVAL BOARD OF BRITAIN'S INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES IS A PART OF THE CHARTERED INSURANCE PRACTICE INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Pre-flotation deals take Woolwich shares to 327p



Peter Newey, chairman of Hornby, down 15 1/2 p at 223p.

SHARES in the Woolwich traded at 327p on the grey market last night before official dealings start on Monday. Brokers are forecasting brisk trading in the shares, matching the welcome given to the former building societies Alliance & Leicester, up 19p at 618 1/2 yesterday, and Halifax, 8p better at 75 1/2.

IG Index, the City bookmaker, was quoting a range of 323p to 331p for Woolwich. It has established a useful track record in forecasting the opening price of mutual floatations.

Strong demand is expected from institutional investors before a series of auctions, starting on Monday. Brokers said fund managers may be willing to pay over the odds to increase their weightings. The fair value for the shares, calculated by the likes of Credit Lyonnais, Laing, the broker, is put at just 250p.

Capitalised at more than £5 billion, Woolwich will automatically enter the FTSE-100 index in September, thereby attracting the attention of tracking funds. Just over 23 per cent of the Woolwich's 2.5 million members have chosen to sell their shares. Those choosing to hang on will reap a windfall worth about £1.470.

The rest of the banks took a breather after this week's strong gains, although there was selective support for HSBC, up 14 1/2 p to 19.53, Lloyds TSB, up 5 1/2 p to 68.1, and Standard Chartered, up 6 1/2 p to 90.2p.

Elsewhere, share prices were again scaling new heights in early trading. Conditions in the futures market proved volatile as traders tried to claw back some of the huge losses suffered in the wake of the Budget. At one stage, the FTSE-100 hit an all-time high of 4,879, but, with Wall Street closed for Independence Day, the London market lacked direction. The index eventually closed 18.9 down, at 4,812.8, on turnover of 910 million shares. Even so, the gain on the week is 17.2, or 3.7 per cent.

Midland Independent Newspapers responded to an agreed bid from Mirror Group and a subsequent market raid on the shares with a rise of 7p to 195 1/2 p. Mirror, up 14 1/2 p at 200 1/2 p, is offering 210p a share, valuing MIN at £297 million. It bought 13.85 million MIN shares in the market at 210p. This stretches its total holding to 34.45 mil-

lion shares, or 25 per cent of Midland.

Sterling's strength continued to cast a shadow over manufacturing companies. It has also forced Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, to take a bearish view of the engineering sector generally. Top of the list of casualties was GKN, down 39p at 920p, with LucasVarity 10 1/2 p off, at 192p,

Coats Viyella finished 10p lower at a new low of 106 1/2 p. NatWest Securities, the broker, says the strong pound makes textile companies uncompetitive against overseas suppliers. Now the abolition of the tax credit on dividends may force companies such as Coats to review its payout policy.

after the broker downgraded its recommendation for the shares from "buy" to "hold". TI Group touched 450p on the back of some bullish comments overnight in Hongkong by Dick Brown, chief executive, relating to the company's tie-up with China Telecom. However, the shares later closed 14 1/2 p down at 573 1/2 p as Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, downgraded its profits forecast. It has cut its estimate for the current

dilution in earnings was ridiculous.

Cable & Wireless touched 590p in early trading on the back of some bullish comments overnight in Hongkong by Dick Brown, chief executive, relating to the company's tie-up with China Telecom. However, the shares later closed 14 1/2 p down at 573 1/2 p as Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, downgraded its profits forecast. It has cut its estimate for the current

influence of the yield curve as the bond market went some way to clawing back this week's losses. The short end of the market remains overshadowed by the prospect of a further rise in interest rates when the Bank of England economic committee meets next week, but there was demand for issues over eight years.

Demand for index-linked issues was such that the Bank of England was able to offer further tranches consisting of £150 million of Treasury Index-Linked 2 1/2 per cent 2011 and £150 million of Treasury Index-Linked 2 1/2 per cent 2020. Brokers reported that supplies of the latter were quickly sold.

In future, the September series of the Long Gilt finished 15p better, at £114.4, with 41,000 contracts completed.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent put on 22 1/2, at £101.16, while, in shorts, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a tick better at £102.9p.

□ Wall Street was closed.

MAJOR INDICES

New York	
Dow Jones	Closed
S&P Composite	Closed
Tokyo	
Nikkei Average	1996.00 (-153.4)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	14822.97 (-222.7)
Amsterdam	
EOD Index	907.19 (+10.09)
Sydney	
ASX	2733.4 (+1.9)
Frankfurt	
DAX	3942.53 (+55.14)
Singapore	
Straits	1985.94 (+23.54)
Brussels	
General	14008.33 (-63.77)
Paris	
CAC-40	2934.48 (+2.50)
Zurich	
SWX Gen	1194.10 (+6.50)
London	
FTSE 100	3205.0 (+1.5)
FTSE 100	4913.24 (-18.9)
FTSE 250	4453.0 (-22.2)
FTSE 350	2311.3 (-0.49)
FTSE Euroshares 100	2818.41 (+26.77)
FTSE All-Share	2260.61 (-8.75)
FTSE Financials	2273.11 (-1.46)
FTSE Financials	2122.12 (+0.52)
FTSE Govt Secs	97.27 (+0.31)
SEAO Volume	910.26
German Mark	1.6875 (+0.035)
Swiss Franc	2.0610 (+0.025)
Bank of England official close (pmp)	104.0 (+0.3)
EBCU	1.4982
ESDR	1.1960
RPI	1.3650 May (2.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	1.3650 May (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

year from £1.46 billion to £1.4 billion.

A profits warning left PGA European Tour Course nursing a fall of 82p to 51 1/2 p. The golf course operator had said that the strong pound and a "variable performance" would leave full-year profit "materially below" expectations. Sean Kelly, managing director, has left and the company take a hit on this, too. His departure coincides with the appointment of Richard Thompson as chairman and Ken Schofield, our director of the European PGA, and Ian Todd, managing director of IMC Europe, as non-executive directors.

Another company to feel the ill-effects of a strong pound is Horray, down 15 1/2 p at 223p after reporting a drop in pre-tax profit last year from £4.89 million to £2.65 million. The group said there were few signs of the retail boom that is being reported elsewhere.

Madie International returned from suspension at 22p after its rights issue and restructuring, having been frozen at 11p. It eventually closed at 28p. That compares with the original rights price of 20p.

Shares in Life Numbers were suspended at 9 1/2 p pending the reverse takeover by XL Communications. The deal values XL at £5.63 million.

□ **GILT EDGED:** There was a further steep flattening of the yield curve as the bond market went some way to clawing back this week's losses. The short end of the market remains overshadowed by the prospect of a further rise in interest rates when the Bank of England economic committee meets next week, but there was demand for issues over eight years.

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RECENT ISSUES

ATT	150p	...
Ashtenhe	126p	+ 1
Aston Villa	8425	+ 25
Caradon B	98p	...
European Mining	24p	...
Grosvenor Huds	3p	...
Grosvenor Huds Wrt	1	...
Heart of Midlothian	110p	...
Highland Timber	134p	...
Integrated As Mgt	125	...
Longbridge Int'l	117p	...
Norwich Union (290)	332	...
Powderley Pharma	200p	+ 25
Reabourne Merlin	140p	...
Royblis Group	211	+ 11
SBS Group	112p	...
SGB Group	156	+ 4
Versatile Group	3p	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Benchmark Gp n/p	16p	+ 1
Century Inns n/p (155)	2	...
Dragon Oil n/p (2)	1p	...
Mackie Intl n/p (20)	8	...
Marylebone Warwick	4p	...
Millwall Huds n/p (1)	1	...
Waterfall Huds	5p	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Priam Rail	335p (+35p)
Allied Carpets	242p (+18p)
AEA Tech	435p (+20p)
BT	501p (+22p)
Gearhouse Gp	320p (+12p)
Flexsteel	703p (+21p)
Andrew Sykes	580p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Denby Gp	158p (-16p)
Pain	347p (-19p)
Horby	223p (-19p)
Thistle Hotels	149p (-10p)
Legal & Gen	439p (-29p)
Quasivest	192p (-10p)
Oxford Inst	168p (-16p)
DCS Gp	209p (-19p)
GKN	920p (-39p)
Tessco	394p (-12p)

Closing Prices Page 40

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	114-11	114-20	114-18	114-24	41081
Previous open interest	16131				
German Govt Bond (Bund)	102.39	102.52	102.42	102.42	7976
Previous open interest	27605				
Italian Govt Bond (BT)	185.40	185.50	185.35	185.35	23457
Previous open interest	10491				
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	128.07	128.15	128.07	128.13	2046
Three Mth Sterling	92.82	92.86	92.82	92.84	6489
Three Mth Euromark	92.24	92.26	92.24	92.26	10922
Three Mth Eurodollar	92.53	92.59	92.53	92.59	6964
Three Mth Euroyen	92.70	92.74	92.70	92.74	10703
Three Mth Euro	124.29	124.48	124.28	124.6510	2
Three Mth Euroswiss	92.80	92.85	92.80	92.85	2250
Three Mth ECU	97.84	97.88	97.84	97.88	1025
Three Mth Eurosterling	92.90	92.93	92.90	92.93	1025
Three Mth Euroyen	92.41	92.41	92.40	92.40	80
Three Mth Euro	124.07	124.24	124.07	124.24	207
Three Mth Euro	92.50	92.55	92.50	92.55	100
Three Mth Euro	124.07	124.24	124.07	124.24	207
Three Mth Euro	92.50	92.55	92.50	92.55	100
Three Mth					

PUS

of control



BEAT THE RISE 31

A lucky buyer completes before the deadline



Young people will have to review their retirement planning after Gordon Brown's move to cut pension benefits

Young suffer most from cut in pension benefits

People in their 20s and 30s will be hardest hit by Budget changes that will drastically cut the value of pension benefits, it has emerged.

They may have to increase their contributions to personal and company pensions by between 20 and 30 per cent a year just to get the same pension in retirement, after the Government's announcement on Wednesday that it was abolishing tax breaks on pension fund investments.

Experts estimate that the removal of the tax break will slice up to nearly three quarters of a percentage point off investment returns which have been around 9 per cent. Even on the most conservative estimate, this could eat the size of your pension by 15 per cent over 40 years, according to Mark Bolland of Chamberlain De Broe, the independent financial adviser.

Younger people will suffer most under the new regime because most or all of their money will be invested at the lower rate.

According to Charles Levent-Scriener of Town Law, a 35-year-old who has so far accumulated a fund of £20,000 on contributions of £1,000 a year could have expected this to turn into £467,949 at 65.

The extra tax cuts this to £493,860, a shortfall of £47,989. He would have to increase his contributions by nearly a quarter to £231.50 to make up for the shortfall on the fund he has already accumulated. On top of this

he would have to add a further £33.50 to his contributions to cover future shortfalls. He will have to pay an extra £315.10 a year to get the same pension in retirement as he could have counted on before the tax changes.

People in their 30s and 50s will be less easily affected but Mr Levent-Scriener calculates that a 40-year-old paying £2,000 a year into a scheme in which a £50,000 fund has already accumulated will have to increase contributions by nearly a quarter.

A 60-year-old, with a fund of £200,000 and a £6,000 annual contribution, would still need to pay nearly 10 per cent more a year, a total of £952.20. If you have a personal pension or company pension

with benefits based on contributions rather than final salary this will affect you.

If you are making additional voluntary contributions, the value of these will be hit. So what should you do to cover the shortfall? Do the changes make other investments more attractive? Advisers are urging people to review their situation.

Trevor Lianwarne, partner and pensions specialist at Price Waterhouse, says "The issue for individuals is that they should be looking at their whole pension arrangement. But they shouldn't do one

thing in isolation or react instantly to pressure."

Here are some possible moves:

■ Boost your contributions with building society funds. If you have a personal pension and have no employer to help to plug the gap, you could put part of a demutualised building society or insurance company windfall into your pension in a lump sum.

■ Review your Serps pension. The removal of tax breaks also calls into question the wisdom of contracting out of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) and

into a personal pension, advisers say. National Insurance rebates diverted into personal pensions have

recently been restructured to make it

more attractive for older people to stay out of Serps.

■ If the value of pension investments falls at a stroke, many people may be better off returning to the state scheme unless rebates are raised to cover the shortfall.

■ Find out if your employer is raising contributions to your company scheme. It will be up to an employer to raise his and your contributions to your company pension to bridge gaps.

■ But Charles Evers, partner at KPMG, says many employers may do nothing. "They

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**LOOKING
FOR A PEP?**

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BEST RETURN
YOU'RE LIKELY
TO MAKE...**

Schroders

Are you looking for a PEP which can deliver you the highest returns? If so, you can't afford to ignore Schroders. Over the years, thousands of investors have profited from our award-winning track record of consistently high performance.

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Eyebrows raised over a mere £10.5m

DESMOND O'NEILL

The £10.5 million divorce settlement awarded to Caroline Conran wife for 33 years to Sir Terence Conran, designer and restaurateur, may seem dazzling in its generosity. But many matrimonial lawyers yesterday expressed surprise at how low it was. Lady Conran should be gnashing her teeth, not Sir Terence.

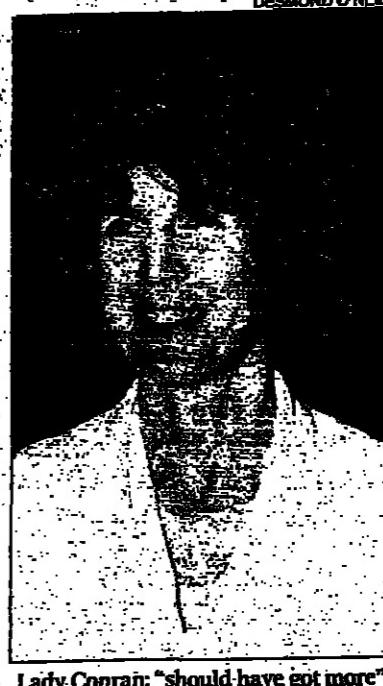
At the time of separation, Sir Terence had £80 million of assets (he now has twice that amount). The judge held that Lady Conran, a "creative, energetic and instinctively stylish" food writer, had played an essential role in the success of the Conran empire. But lawyers believe that, in the light of the judge's ruling, her contribution could have been valued more highly. "A very mean order," said Frances Hughes of Bates Wells & Braithwaite. "Why was it worth so little compared to the whole of his wealth?"

Disaffected wives of magnates hoping to equal or better the Conran score must show that they were active directors at their husband's business, or, failing that, intimately involved in decision-making and strategy. How-

ever, the former spouses of multimillionaires should be aware that the Conran case appears to prove yet again that a unwritten limit of £10-12 million applies to wives' settlements in the British courts. For example, Maja Flick, former spouse of Friedrich Flick, the billionaire Mercedes heir, had to be content with £9 million.

The moderate level of settlements here is said to have made Britain popular with plutocratic husbands with multinational business interests who are "forum shopping" for the legal jurisdiction offering the lowest deals to ex-wives. Sandra Davis of Mishcon de Reya said the Conran payout would still have been considered "a very unimpressive result" in America. The US is currently enthralled by *Wendy's Wendy*, where Linda Wendt, 53, corporate wife extraordinaire, is claiming half of the \$100 million fortune of her husband Gary, chief executive of the GE Capital conglomerate. Men are queaking in US boardrooms. Leading article, page 21

ANNE ASHWORTH



Lady Conran: "should have got more"

Marianne Curphey on the launch of cheaper post-Budget policies

Insurers fear lapse in private health cover

Private health insurers are planning to launch cheaper versions of medical policies and plans with more limited cover after the Chancellor's decision to scrap tax relief on premiums for the over-60s. Insurance companies calculate that the removal of relief at the basic 30 per cent rate will force one third of all policyholders over 60 to give up their PMI. This could mean as many as 300,000 policies covering nearly 600,000 elderly people will lapse.

The relief was previously worth about £300 for a single person paying an average premium of £1,000 a year.

Health insurers are responding to the changes, announced in Wednesday's Budget, by urging customers to contact them to discuss how they can continue policies.

There is a danger that, if people switch insurers, they will almost certainly lose cover for their existing medical conditions. PPP healthcare, the second largest insurer in the United Kingdom, said: "It is a sad fact that in the long run switching to cheaper general insurance can prove a false economy. Given the imposition

of the tax change most healthcare providers will be forced over backwards during the next 12 months to minimise impact on customers and retain their loyalty."

The industry could certainly do without this blow at a time when the number of people taking out PMI is falling and fewer companies are offering medical insurance as part of their benefit packages for employees. The Chancellor said he was removing the tax relief because it had failed to encourage more people to make private medical provision.

Julian Stainton, chief executive of WPA, one of the largest private medical insurers in the country, conceded that the tax relief had not succeeded in increasing the number of PMI policyholders.

However, he said that the National Health Service would have to cope with an influx of older patients and the extra cost would be £200 million a year. He said: "This has huge implications for waiting lists and resources as older people are much more likely to need healthcare than younger ones."

Before the general election, Labour had made no secret of its plan to scrap the relief and Bupa, the market leader, launched a lobbying campaign prior to the election.

Vai Gooding, managing director of Bupa UK, said: "Our members aged over 60 are in the age group which needs the most care and the reassurance of knowing they will have immediate access to high quality treatment."

Saga, one of the biggest providers of medical insurance to the over-60s, said it had set up an advice line for policyholders and was offering customers a higher excess on their plans in order to keep the renewal cost down.

Phil Loney, marketing director of Saga, said: "We are also offering people the opportunity to reduce their level cover and keep the same premium."

Tax relief at the individual's highest rate on PMI for the over-60s was introduced in 1990 as part of the Conservative Party's plans to encourage the public to take out policies.

The relief was later lowered to the basic rate of tax at 23 per cent for all policyholders, even higher-rate taxpayers.

From Thursday, tax relief will only be given on policies currently in the process of being renewed and will apply only to those policies where payment of the premium is due before August 1, 1997. Since all plans which qualify for tax relief are limited to a contract of one year, all contracts which qualify for tax relief will come to an end by July 30, 1998.

Meanwhile, motor insurers were divided on whether moves to encourage the National Health Service to claw back the cost of treating road accident victims from insurance companies would lead to higher premiums.

The Automobile Association estimated that if all motorists trusted reclining the maximum £3,000 per person permitted, the bill would come to £440 million a year and would cost motorists an extra £20 on their premiums.

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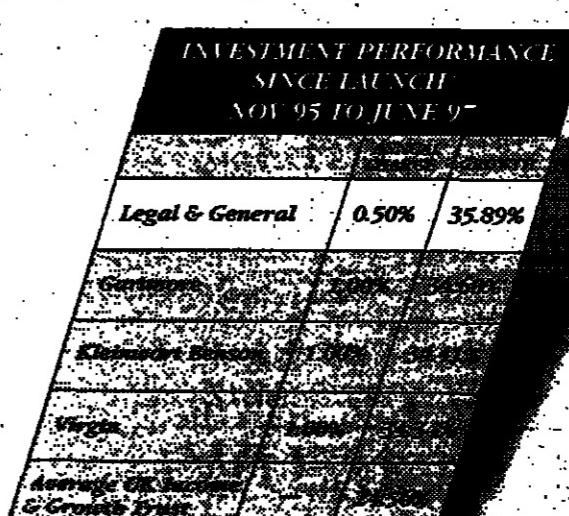
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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

To the Chancellor's discredit

In his Budget, Gordon Brown made much of his role as guardian of "the people's money", his longest term for the public finances. One of his measures, however, indicates that he knows little about people and their money.

The decision to abolish the dividend tax credit has created uncertainty not only for the 19 million people investing in pensions, but also for the holders of Peps, including thousands of homeowners. If Mr Brown aspired to cause confusion, this was not a mean achievement for a first Budget.

The Chancellor announced that he would be replacing the Pep with the individual savings account (isa). But he was sparing with detail. The Government has been planning to introduce Isa's for at least a year but seems to have little idea of how they will work.

In preparation for Isa's debut the



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

right to tax-free income on shares held in Peps will be withdrawn in 1999. It will be possible to transfer an unquantified amount of Pep money into an Isa. But it is unlikely that the transfers will be allowed to exceed the account's investment limit. This figure remains another of Mr Brown's secrets.

The Chancellor could argue that Pep investors have benefited from a decade's worth of tax exemption. But it appears to have overlooked those borrowers putting cash into Peps to

repay mortgages, including thousands of Halifax customers. Already facing rises in mortgage rates, must they now invest a little extra to ensure that their loans are repaid? Or will they be able to save sufficient amounts in Isa's to make good any shortfall in 25 years' time?

Mr Brown does have the chance to redeem himself. The review of the pension system, to be published later this month, should acknowledge the dismay caused by the abolition of the dividend tax credit. It should set out

how it intends to compensate for this loss, and how Peps and Isa's and, after them, Isa's can be used to supplement pensions.

Many believe that the Government should require us to make compulsory contributions to our pensions. But we must explain how this can be afforded after his tax raid.

Apathy costs

Can it be Rowan Atkinson, certainly not George Clooney but entertaining enough in the TV advert? Is it the familiar blue and gold logo? Or is it just sheer apathy that keeps eight million people faithful to Barclaycard. This week Barclaycard raises its annual percentage rate to 22.90 per cent – 10 per cent more than many competitors. So, if you borrow £1,000 over six months with Barclaycard, it will cost you £113, but just £69 at People's Bank. Apathy costs.

Uncertain future for Pep mortgage holders

Among the hardest hit savers in the Budget are those with mortgages linked to personal equity plans (Peps) and pensions.

Pep mortgage borrowers are facing an uncertain future, after the Chancellor's decision to replace Peps with the new individual savings account (isa), which will be introduced in 1999.

Holders of pension mortgages also face possibly shortfalls in their funds after the abolition of dividend tax credits.

The Treasury admitted this week that the future of Pep mortgages was "a problem that needed to be addressed" but gave no indication of when this would be done.

A spokesman said that he could give no guarantee that Pep holders, particularly those with substantial sums invested, would be able to transfer their funds directly into the Isa. It is possible that the Government will decide to cap the amount of money in a Pep that can be transferred into an Isa.

For pension mortgage borrowers, independent financial advisers recommend increasing payments by 5 per cent per annum to cover the shortfall created by the abolition of dividend tax credits.

Stephen Cave, head of corporate pensions at Mores Marr Brady, an IFA in Milton Keynes, said that the annual reduction in yield on a pension as a result of the measure in the Budget could be up to 1 per cent a year.

The advantage for pension mortgage holders is that at least they get tax relief on their contributions, whereas any money which goes into a Pep is paid out of taxed income, he said.

He believes that holders of

pension mortgages should contact their insurance company and arrange to increase contributions. "Bear in mind that you will probably have to pay an extra charge to do so."

Mr Cave says a borrower with a £100,000 mortgage repaid over 20 years needs to build up a fund of £400,000.

Assuming that the fund's current growth rate of 9 per cent per annum is reduced to 8 per cent by the changes in the Budget, the borrower will need to put in an extra £1,000 a year on top of the £7,000 he already pays to make up the difference.

This excludes any charges you will have to make for changing your contributions.

Less sophisticated borrowers could be left with nowhere to turn if the Pep vehicle breaks down, and a lot of people could be paying off interest only.

Mr Cartwright believes that the replacement of Peps could also burden lenders with extra costs, particularly in the case of "packaged" Pep deals which are managed by the bank or building society.

"Putting a different repayment vehicle in place could be a nightmare, and it would be a huge blow to the lenders concerned," he added.

The Halifax said this week that it would continue to market its Pep product unless forced into a complete change of plan and the Halifax has called for clarification on the issue.

The Halifax made the Pep mortgage its flagship product last year and maintains borrowers need not lose out. The new bank says it would replace Peps with an alternative vehicle such as unit trusts.

Pepper mortgage borrowers may be forced into a complete change of plan and the Halifax has called for clarification on the issue.

However, it promised to inform all new customers that Peps were unlikely to exist for more than two years. In 1996 Halifax sold 50,000 Pep mortgages.

Northwest, which ran a high profile advertising campaign to promote its Pep mortgage on television, said it was still considering its post-Budget strategy.

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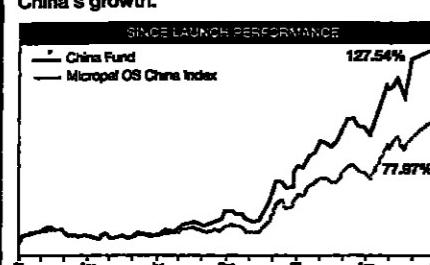
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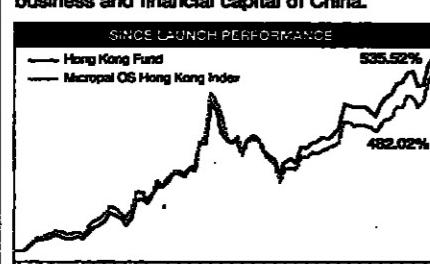
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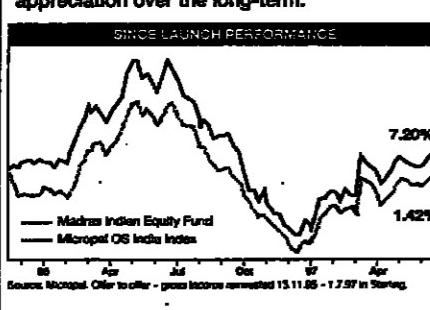
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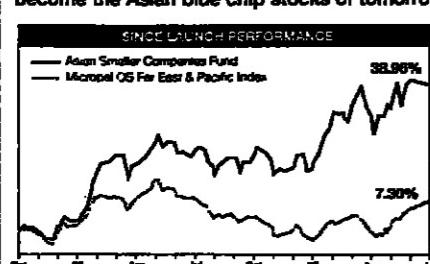
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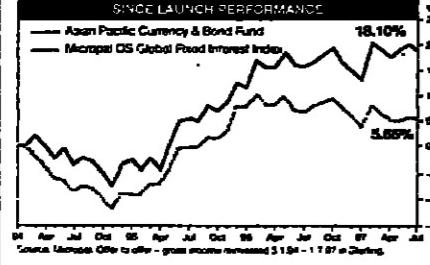
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ADRIAN SHERRATT

Days of the Pep are numbered as Chancellor ends tax break

The personal equity plan, devised in 1986 by Lord Lawson of Blaby, is unlikely to survive until the next century.

The Chancellor has dealt a death blow to this particular Tory savings incentive by abolishing one of its tax concessions while announcing the launch of the new Individual Savings Account. From April 1999 Pep holders will not be able to reclaim the 20p income tax on their dividends.

The income tax break is one of the primary reason why Peps are purchased, as most people do not exceed the annual £6,500 limit for capital gains tax.

Dropping the tax credit entirely will lead to a 20 per cent cut in income for Pep holders. For example, £6,000 invested in a general Pep investing in a collection of the UK's biggest companies could generate gross income of £210 a year, saving basic and lower rate taxpayers £24 a year in tax, and saving higher-rate taxpayers £84 per year. Cutting the 20 per cent tax credit would lead to a reduction in income of £42 per year. Instead of the £210 annual income, the Pep in the above example would pay £168 annual income.

Not all is lost, however. Corporate bond Peps, which generate income from fixed-interest securities, will not be affected. Managers of equity income funds are expected to start investing more in bonds to compensate for the expected loss in income.

The Chancellor also promised to reform capital gains tax in his next Budget.

He wants to encourage long-term investment and may introduce a two-tier system to replace the current £6,500 threshold. How it would affect Peps is not clear.

In spite of this, Peps have done better than pension funds out of the Budget. The Chancellor removed the dividend tax credit from pension funds immediately. For this reason, if you are starting to save for retirement, it might be better to consider a Pep. They will give you 20 per cent higher returns for the next two years.

Most commentators reckon the Chancellor is preparing to kickstart the launch of the individual savings account (isa) with the re-

introduction of the tax credit as the new account will doubtless be completely tax-free. There is no point in shunning Peps and Tessas as figures from the Inland Revenue indicate that investors will be able to transfer all their money into the isa when it arrives.

Charles Levitt Scrivener of Towry Law, the financial adviser, urges investors not to abandon the Pep. "People should still maximise their Pep savings because in the long run equities outperform gilts and deposits by around 6 per cent a year. The big gain comes from investing in equities. The tax benefits are still good, just not as good as before." He also points out that investing in a Pep avoids filling in a self-assessment form.

Elsewhere, the Budget contained a small measure to help gilt investors. From April 6 next year, they can receive their interest from the Bank of England paid gross.

This brings gils in line with National Savings. This could save a small amount but will involve more paperwork when working out your tax liability. More significantly, the Bank has cut the number of gilt auctions this year from 11 to nine after the Chancellor forecast a cut in government borrowing.

An indirect benefit of the Budget for savers is that the Bank is widely expected to raise interest rates again in a bid to rein in the growth in consumer spending. One-year guaranteed income bonds are already rising as a result.

In the only other measure of substance for investors, the Budget cracked down on enterprise investment schemes and venture capital trusts. Introduced by the Conservatives, EIS and VCTs were designed to encourage investment in small unquoted companies by offering generous tax breaks.

However, an increasing number of schemes have invested in property development or arranged guaranteed payouts from banks in an attempt to reduce the risk to investors. The Government believes these break the spirit of the rules and has announced a review.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

Consultation period will be crucial for Isas

Karen Zagor says there is unease about the new savings vehicle

not be available until next year, after a consultation period, but enough was revealed in the Budget to get an outline of what to expect from Isas. In spite of the Government's best efforts, some of the details are already causing a degree of investor unease.

Tax breaks are the main advantage of investing in a Pep or Tessa. Gains generated by a Pep or a Tessa held to maturity are not subject to capital gains or income tax. The formula will be extended to Isas, since Mr Brown has said that Isas will "provide a tax-favoured environment for savings".

One of the charges that has been levied against Peps is that they are designed to appeal to higher earners. The tax breaks from Peps are more valuable to higher earners than to lower, since lower-rate taxpayers are taxed at the 20 per cent level on their savings, compared with 40 per cent for higher earners.

In addition, very few people exceed their annual capital gains tax allowance of £6,500, so the capital gains tax advantages of a Pep only benefit the better off. Peps have an annual investment limit of £9,000 a year (£6,000 in a general Pep and £3,000 in a single company Pep).

Tessas are far less flexible, with investment limits of £3,000 in the first year and £1,300 a year thereafter until

higher earners. The tax breaks from Peps are more valuable to higher earners than to lower, since lower-rate taxpayers are taxed at the 20 per cent level on their savings, compared with 40 per cent for higher earners.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

China on their Mings

Conal Gregory says dealers see oriental art prices rising after China's takeover of Hong Kong



As always, watch out for fakes — a real Yuan dynasty vase is on the left and a "copy" that can trap the unwary

China's takeover of Hong Kong will prompt a surge in prices for Chinese antiques, according to specialists in oriental art. Michael Goedhuis, a leading London expert in this field, predicts collectors will be chasing after a shrinking supply of pieces.

"It will not be possible to buy freely in Hong Kong as in the past," he explains. For years, Britain has been the centre for Chinese study and trade with top collections, such as the Percival David Foundation at London University and Oxford's Ashmolean Museum. Large auctions have been planned from here, and this year has seen a boom in activity, including the Hong Kong sale of a Qing dynasty bowl for £1.7 million in April.

In China, there are spectacular ceramic collections in Beijing's Forbidden City and in a new gallery in Shanghai, though many quality pieces are closer to public view in the Museum of History in Tiananmen Square.

For collectors, it is vital to identify genuine articles. Over

the past year, prices have leapt ahead for top quality Chinese artefacts, but have not even kept pace with inflation for lesser pieces. Always ask auctioneers or dealers for the source.

A good provenance can boost the price. For example, one Ming blue and white saucer from the Wanli period (1573-1619) was formerly in the Alfred Clark collection. Five years ago, it would have cost £8,000, but today it is offered at £14,000 by Roger Keverne, a dealer in Mount Street, London.

Cloisonné of 15th and 16th centuries is rare and highly valued, but pieces from later periods are locked in a weak market, according to Sotheby's. Canton and Peking painted enamels of the early 18th century — Yongzheng era — have not changed price for ten years and are now tipped as bargains by Mr Keverne, who says that high quality jade animals are also rising in value. Jade carvings reached top prices in the late 1980s when Taiwanese collectors were

buying. In ceramics look for the high quality decorative work made before Tang Ying died in 1756. He was superintendent of the Jingdezhen kilns and ensured fine output.

The period most neglected until three years ago was the "Warring States" to Han dynasty (403BC to AD220). Here the simpler forms have now come into fashion with an 18in bronze vessel costing £10,000. Mr Goedhuis says "no fakes of this period are known", largely because the patination is difficult to imitate.

From horses to ceramics and jade, there are many fakes and most originate in China. Three tips for investors to avoid expensive mistakes:

use the expertise of a dealer who belongs to the British Antique Dealers' Association (where there is a redress if a problem occurs); secure a dealer to buy on your behalf at auction or commission; have a test on ageing undertaken.

The latter is particularly useful for unglazed articles, and is carried out by Oxford Authentication at Wantage, Oxfordshire (tel 01235 770956).

Caroline Merrell considers the reunification of Taiwan

The wayward child grows up

Taiwan can be viewed as the oldest and most wayward of China's children. The emerging economy with a population of 22 million is now under increasing pressure to return to China after 48 years of separation. However, while culturally Taiwan is predominantly Chinese, half a decade of independence has seen the economies and politics of China and Taiwan move in remarkably different directions. The original Taiwanese Kuomintang, led by Chiang Kai-shek, which in 1949 claimed to be effectively the Chinese Government in exile, has gradually ceded to a more open democratic regime, while the Government of the People's Republic of China, which forced the KMT into Taiwan, has remained communist.

The treatment of Hong Kong by the Chinese after this week's handover is being watched keenly in Taipei. If Hong Kong fares well under Chinese rule, then Taiwan may be more disposed towards reunification. However, the political parties favouring reunification did badly in the most recent Taiwanese elections. Most analysts believe the Taiwanese Government favours a retention of the status quo with China.

For UK investors, Taiwan should be seen as offering high risks but potentially high rewards. Over the past year, the Taiwanese market has risen about 27 per cent, and nearly 40 per cent over three years. Those willing to take the risk should choose funds that invest in other Far East emerging markets such as Malaysia and Thailand.

The companies quoted on the Taiwan market now have a total market capitalisation that is greater than that of the companies quoted on the Hong Kong market. Profits for most of Taiwan's industries are generated domestically — its biggest trading partner is China, with whom it enjoys cordial relations. The 390 companies traded on the Taiwan market are mainly in the



banking sector. However, Richard Firth, a Schroder fund manager, said electronics companies have recently begun to overtake financials as the largest quoted sector.

The phrase "Made in Taiwan" is no longer associated with cheap plastic goods — PCs and other complicated electronic items now come from the high quality Hitachi and Philips are among two big companies that invest Taiwan as a manufacturing base.

Mr Firth said: "The country has a well-regulated labour force. The number of quoted companies has doubled since the Eighties as the Government has begun to recognise the need for opening up the market to foreign investment." Although controls do exist on the amount foreigners can invest in Taiwanese shares, more deregulation is in the pipeline. Schroder offers an offshore single-country fund investing in Taiwan, with a minimum \$1,000 investment. It also has exposure to Taiwan through its Far Eastern funds.

Genuine Sze, a researcher with HSBC, which has about \$4 billion invested in Taiwan, is optimistic about the future. She believes Taiwanese companies will find it easy to exploit the economic emergence of China. She said: "The attractions of China as a destination for Taiwanese investment are obvious: proximity, similar cultural and linguistic heritage and the sheer size of the domestic market." However, she added:



Wayward children: Young Taiwanese wait to put on a sports display in Taipei

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

WEEKEND MONEY 37

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Pension scheme members are not the client

From Mr A. Fletcher

Sir, First can I say how very much I enjoyed your article (The lady's definitely not for churning, June 21). Enjoyable because it brought home some very real facts that people, especially final-salary scheme members should, at the very least, be made aware of.

However, there are a couple of points I would like to bring to your attention. First, why does it always

seem to be a "soft touch" to attack the financial adviser?

You must remember that the employer/trustees are the client, not the members. The adviser has [legal] obligations to act in the best interest of his clients.

It is worth noting that there are now pension trustees and often external trustees, all of whom are making calculated decisions regarding the best way forward. It is oversimplistic to

argue that it is a situation of employers and advisers versus members' interests.

Secondly, following on from the above, recent legislation has often made it totally unfeasible to continue with final-salary schemes.

The switch to money-purchase arrangements of some sort may well be the only alternative to offering nothing at all. Never lose sight of the fact that the majority of schemes converting are

in the "small to medium" range. They have had the foresight to offer a pension scheme to their employees and whatever the basis of that scheme, it is invariably better than no scheme at all. After all, the member does *not* have to pay.

Yours faithfully,

ANDREW FLETCHER,
10 Woodlands Place,
Northlands Road,
Southampton.

Left feeling just a little short-changed

From Mr S.J. Osborne

Sir, My 11-year-old son has received his cash bonus for becoming a qualified member of Alliance & Leicester since 1991. We chose A&L to encourage him to save long before conversion was thought of. His reward — £13,071, being a qualified member over 18, had about £1,500 and could easily have had a lower balance than my son. Do you agree that my son, receiving 114 times less than I, has been fairly treated? Yours faithfully,

S. OSBORNE,
Manor Cottage,
Sleepers Hill,
Winchester, Hampshire.

The Co-op Bank — where more means less

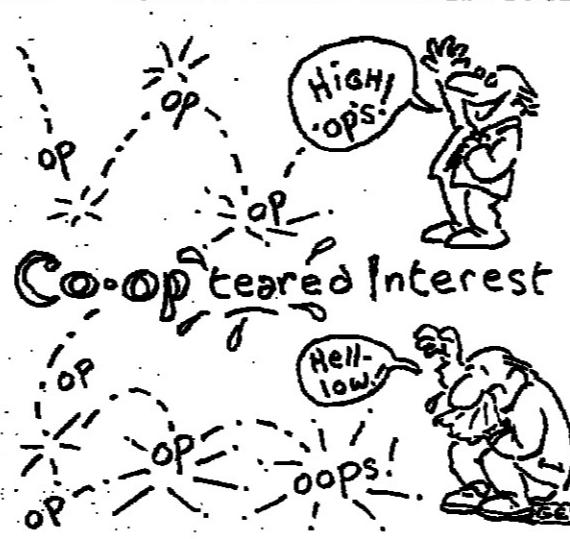
From Mr P. Hathaway

Sir, I received a letter recently from the Co-op Bank headed "More Interest on Pathfinder".

My immediate thought was that this was likely to be good news, but on closer examination my interest rate will be roughly halved, as tiered interest rates have been introduced by the Co-op Bank from July 1, 1997.

For a bank that prides itself on its ethics, I don't think the heading to be particularly ethical!

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP HATHAWAY,
25 Walton Station Lane,
Wakefield,
West Yorkshire.



First wife and widow are denied any part of a Service pension

From Mrs K. Currie

Sir, Further to your recent articles and many letters on the subject, I wish to draw your attention to a matter concerning Service pensions. Inquiries exist with regard to second wives and to former wives who have not remarried.

My late husband, Squadron Leader Jack Currie, DFC, was in receipt of a pension for his service during the war and up to his retirement in 1964. When he died last year, I learnt that under the current rules I was not eligible for a proportion of his pension.

Neither is the first wife. Yet my husband had a substantial history of service as evidenced by the obituaries printed in *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*, as well as contributions which would normally allow him to leave a survivor's benefit.

When we married in 1975, my husband gave me to understand that I would not be eligible for a widow's pension from the RAF, but when the

rules changed in 1978, he seemed to think I would be, and as a result, made no other provision for me. He died not realising the full implications of the changes concerning our status.

My questions are: what is the justification for an occupational pension to cease on the demise of the contributor when there is a surviving spouse? And secondly, why is a contributor's service not recognised in the form of a benefit to the first wife if she has not remarried? For neither the first nor the second wife to benefit is inequitable, and your support is sought to bring about a change in the rules.

There is another point I wish to make. I know there are many men and women who gave their all during the war, and I trust that they and their spouses are being fairly treated. If not, I am sure there will be individual cases like mine being put forward for special treatment.

I believe that through his

books, my husband's great ability to inspire future generations to a life of flying in the RAF — with all the courage and determination that that takes — should be recognised, and that his life's work should not be nullified by the enforcement of a rule which denies a benefit to at least one of the two women who devoted their lives to him.

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN CURRIE,
Westfield,
Thirk Road,
Easingwold, York.

Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements given in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought over all investment matters.

Letters to the Weekend Money section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

□ The pensions fund industry is claiming employers will have to find an additional £75 billion over the next ten years to meet the cost of the changes to the taxation of dividend income announced in the Budget on Wednesday.

□ Mirus, mortgage tax relief at source, will be cut from its current level of 15 per cent to 10 per cent from April 1998. The news was greeted with relief by mortgage lenders and builders who had feared that the Chancellor would scrap tax relief entirely.

Homebuyers who complete purchases of properties costing more than £250,000 after next Monday will have to pay an extra half a percentage point in stamp duty, which goes up from 1 to 1.5 per cent. The duty rises to 2 per cent for properties costing £500,000 or more.

□ Insurers believe that the abolition of tax relief on private medical insurance for the over 60s might not save the Treasury any money because the Chancellor took no account of the costs of treating elderly people who will in future be fully dependent on the NHS.

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Simon

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

A home for your shares windfall

If you are still undecided on what to do with your Woolwich share windfall, a factsheet produced by the Association of Investment Trust Companies (AITC) lists the investment trust Peps that will accept building society and insurance flotation shares. An overview of each Pep scheme is listed as well as charges and contact numbers. Call 0171-431 5222 for a free factsheet.

The Association of Unit Trusts & Investment Funds (Autif) has also issued a guide for investors receiving windfall shares. With the average dividend between £1,000 and £1,500 new shareholders will have to make important decisions on what to do next. Autif's practical guide shows how to maximise the benefit of your investment, whether you decide to sell your shares and put the proceeds in a building society deposit account or hold your shares in a Pep. For a free copy call 0181-207 1361.

Northern Rock is increasing savings rates on its postal and branch accounts by up to 0.60 per cent gross from today. Rates on Select 60 and Select Instant have also increased to 7.25 per cent and 7 per cent respectively. Northern Rock's offshore subsidiary, Northern Rock (Guernsey) Ltd, has also improved its rates.

The Carpetbagger's Guide to Life Companies looks at previous takeovers, mergers and demutualisations in the life assurance industry, considering what has happened, why it has happened and who has benefited. The guide highlights the easiest ways to become a "member" of the various life companies and examines which companies could be candidates for take-over. Send a cheque for £5 to Chartwell Investment Management Ltd, 18 Brock Street, Bath BA1 2LW.

The twentieth edition of **Pension Funds and their Advisers** is now available. The guide lists 2,000 of the UK's largest pensions funds which together comprise assets of £430 billion or almost two thirds of all UK pension fund assets. For a copy, send a cheque for £9.95 to AP Information Services, Roman House, 2nd Floor, Golden Green Road, London NW11 9PZ.

LIZANNE ROSE

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ANNUAL INCOME			
Rates as at July 4, 1997			
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)	
1 Year			
5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.20	
10,000	AIG Life	6.26	
20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.40	
50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.50	
2 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.45	
5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.40	
20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.50	
50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.60	
3 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.60	
5,000	GE Fin Assur	6.48	
20,000	GE Fin Assur	6.58	
50,000	GE Fin Assur	6.68	
4 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15	
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35	
5 Years			
1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15	
3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.60	

Source: Chamberlain de Broi 0171-434 4222. Net rates, income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

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Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Inst Access	Instant	£1	6.15	Yly
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0800 724337	Inst Transfer	£1,650	6.50	Yly	
Abbey National 0780 174838	Postal	£2,000	6.75	Yly	
Alliance & Leic BS 0800 412214	First Cts Inst	£10,000	7.00	Yly	

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0500 225777	Albion 30	30 day p	£10,000	6.65	Yly
Leopard Joseph 0171 58822232	40 Day Notice	40 day	£10,000	6.71	Yly
Scarborough BS 01723 500616	Scarbor 120 Day	120 day	£5,000	7.15	Yly
Coventry BS 0345 685522	Fxd Inc Bond 2	31.8.00	£10,000	7.60F	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.55	F/Mly
Inwestec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650	Premier+feeder	5 year	£9,000	7.45	Yly
Mounthshire BS 01633 840454		5 year	£1,000	7.40	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	7.15	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0.6495N	7.90%	Nill
RBS Adams 0800 077770	Visa	0.7959N	9.90%	Nill
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.8796C	10.80%	Nill

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3 yrs with insurance
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£114.29
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	13.90%A	£121.07
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.95

N.B. A = Minimum age 22 years. Holders of comprehensive motor insurance policy or lender's existing customers. B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System. C = no interest free period. D = Rate includes bonus. F = Fixed rate (all other rates variable). H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged. N = Introductory rate for a limited period. P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

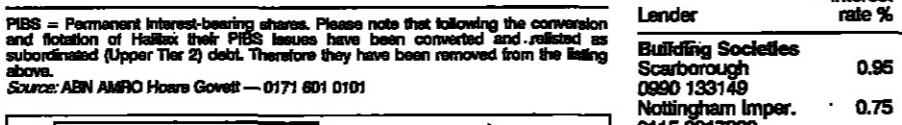
Source: Moneyfacts, *The Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates* (01622 500 677)

PIBS

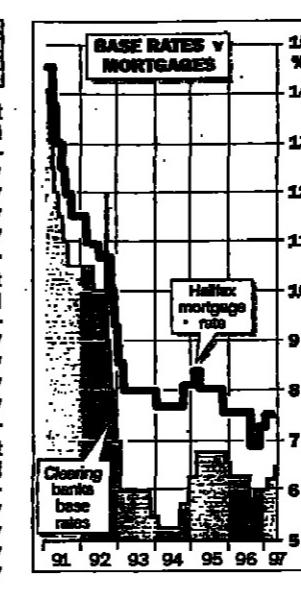
FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	117.71	7,934	10.17	1,000	
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	141.38	8,222	10.13	10,000	
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	158.01	8,227	10.42	1,000	
Bristol & West 13.375%	163.34	8,184	10.34	1,000	
Britannia 12.125%	151.54	7,945	10.75	1,000	
First National 11.750%	142.55	8,245	10.25	10,000	
Friends & L'holbeck 12.000%	161.13	8,149	10.60	1,000	
Merseyside 10.750%	138.56	8,138	10.32	1,000	
Newcastle 12.625%	154.97	8,147	10.45	1,000	
Northern Rock 12.625%	154.97	8,147	10.14	1,000	
Skipton 12.875%	157.07	7,054	10.48	1,000	

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Cheshire (30/09/27/03) 9.04063%	115.00	100.00	1,000	
First Nat (22/09/20/03) 9.12031%	104.00	100.00	1,000	

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares. Please note that following the conversion and flotation of Halifax, their PIBS issues have been converted and listed as subordinated (Upper Tier 2) debt. Therefore they have been removed from the listing Source: ABN AMRO Home Govt — 0171 601 0101



Source: Chamberlain de Broi 0171-434 4222. Net rates, income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.



	Gross %	At tax rates 20% 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c*	1.50	1.20 0.90	10-10,000	0645 645000	
Investment A/c's	4.75	3.80 2.86	20-500**	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*	8.00	4.80	3,600-20,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond*	6.25	5.00	3,751,000-20,000-25,000**	100-10,000	0645 645000
44th Issue Certif.*	5.35		25,000	1mth	0645 645000
Children's Bond*	6.75		25,000		

THE TIMES UNION INFORMATION SERVICE

CRICKET

Essex fail to cope with Shine

By IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Somerset (24pts) beat Essex (6) by ten wickets

ESSEX are supposed to be contesting the leadership of their county championship table. Somersets' when without their two leading bowlers, are supposedly one of the more feckless of the first-class counties. Not so yesterday, for they won by the quite unexpected margin of ten wickets and with a day to spare.

Kevin Shine, who has revitalised his career at his third and most welcoming club, took five for 72 in the Essex second innings and eight wickets in the match.

It is hard to glean just why Essex, who were bowled out

the odd ball delivered at a fair pace on or outside off stump that swings away just sufficiently to catch the edge. Shine having been awarded his county cap last month, after being released earlier in his career by both Middlesex and Hampshire, feels he has a future.

His other wickets were those of Gooch, leg-before shuffling in front of his stumps. Danny Law, caught at second slip, Rollins, playing on, and Robinson, who came in down the order because of a bruised thumb, taken at the wicket down the leg side.

Shine's match figures were eight for 145 and throughout it should be noted, the conditions afforded him minimal assistance.

On one occasion, Stuart Law, whose 55 runs came off 56 balls, effortlessly flicked for six a ball that Shine speared down the leg side. Yet he, too, contrived to bring about his own dismissal.

BARRING significant improvement, Middlesex will succumb to their first county championship defeat under the captaincy of Mark Ramprakash today. At no stage have they played like aspirants to the title and they have already relinquished the

lead of 129 yesterday, batted so indifferently in this match. They did not have to contend with Caddick or Mushtaq Ahmed, one of whom was with England and the other injured. Shine, Rose and Kerr do not make for the most formidable attack in the country.

Yet still they bowled Essex out. The captain went in the opening over to the first ball he received and, with the exception of Stuart Law, there was a submissiveness about the remainder of the batting.

Prichard was nearly taken by Turner, who scooped the ball up in front of first slip. This was the first wicket to be taken by Shine, whose tendency to be erratic works, perversely, to his advantage. The batsman never knew what is coming next.

There was a fair bit down the leg side, interspersed with

Cosker keeps Glamorgan in command

By PAT GIBSON

SWANSEA (third day of four): Gloucestershire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 132 runs behind Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN went to the top of the county championship last night and they could take some stuffing. Even without Robert Croft, they looked a powerful side all round as they forced Gloucestershire to follow on, 186 runs behind.

They should now go on to record their third successive victory on a pitch helping both seam and spin bowling against opponents whose own title ambitions have been ruthlessly exposed.

Glamorgan's bowlers were powerless to prevent Glamorgan from running up 400 for five declared and then their batsmen, none of whom has made a championship century this season, subsided to 244 all out. To add to their embarrassment, Jon Lewis had to abort his run-up four times in one over before he eventually got it right to have Hugh Morris leg-before for 73, a momentary effort.

Glamorgan's bowlers proved an altogether different proposition to the Gloucestershire attack, with much-needed balance supplied by Dean Cosker, the England Under-19 left-arm spinner, who played no small part in flushing out the isolated pockets of resistance.

It was Cosker who got rid of Wright after he had batted through 24 overs for 32. Cosker who had Russell caught at slip after he had helped Young put on 60 for the sixth wicket, the biggest partnership of the innings, and Cosker who made the second-innings breakthrough by re-moving Wright again.

Lane appointed to Lewis's bout

SPORT IN BRIEF

MILLS LANE will be the referee when Lennox Lewis defends his World Boxing Council heavyweight championship against Henry Akinwande at Caesars Palace, Lake Tahoe, Nevada on July 14. (Srikumar Sen writes).

Lewis's camp had no objection to the appointment. Emanuel Steward, Lewis's trainer, said: "He is a good referee. He is stern and will not allow holding by Akinwande. We know that is what Akinwande is going to



Tufnell launches an animated but unsuccessful appeal for leg-before against Martin

Middlesex on brink of defeat

By RICHARD HOBSON

UXBRIDGE (third day of four): Middlesex, with four second-innings wickets in hand, need 101 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Lancashire

HAVING batted with an ease that suggested a large score was in the offing, he attempted to late-cut Kerr and edged to first slip. It is facile to say he needed to bat against a more challenging attack than this, but at times, that was the case.

Kerr also removed Irani,

who was caught, Australian style, by Shine at long leg.

Rose, who had made useful runs earlier in the day, had Grayson well taken by Holloway at cover, the catch judged to perfection over his shoulder. Rose also finished off the tail, giving him figures of three for 22.

Somerset were left to make a mere 21 to win. Their victory was brought about not least by their diligent and at times positive batting in the morning. Turner finished unbeaten with 80, an innings which included six fours and a six over long-on off Such. They are unlikely to finish in the higher echelons of the championship table, but this was a triumph to relish.

On Wednesday, they elected to field — inexplicably — dawdled through their overs and subsequently their batting crumbled against some tidy Nottinghamshire bowling. However, they did nar-

rowly save the follow-on, and with it, the match.

As the tourists struggled to find their feet, the scoring rate declined to two an over and the few paying spectators were indebted to Azhar Mahmood for raising the tempo with an attractive unbeaten 56 from 112 balls.

A seventh-wicket stand of 66 between Azhar and Javed Qadir seemed to be indicating a recovery before Matthew Dowman inspired a collapse with career-best figures of three for ten, leaving the last wicket pair to nervously reach 150.

Few batsmen in these circumstances begrudge dismissal as much as Brown. He can

expect to graft the 10,000th run of his gritty career this month and, when he edged Martin to second slip, the whooping among the fielders was understandable. How Brown would have appreciated the immings by Fairbrother that underpinned Lancashire's total. He was three short of a deserved first hundred of the season when he gave a return catch to Hewitt.

Ramprakash followed his first innings' duck with just two before falling leg-before to Yates. Kallis, who struck two sixes in his 62, and Gattin departed in successive overs to catches at silly mid-off with the score on 112.

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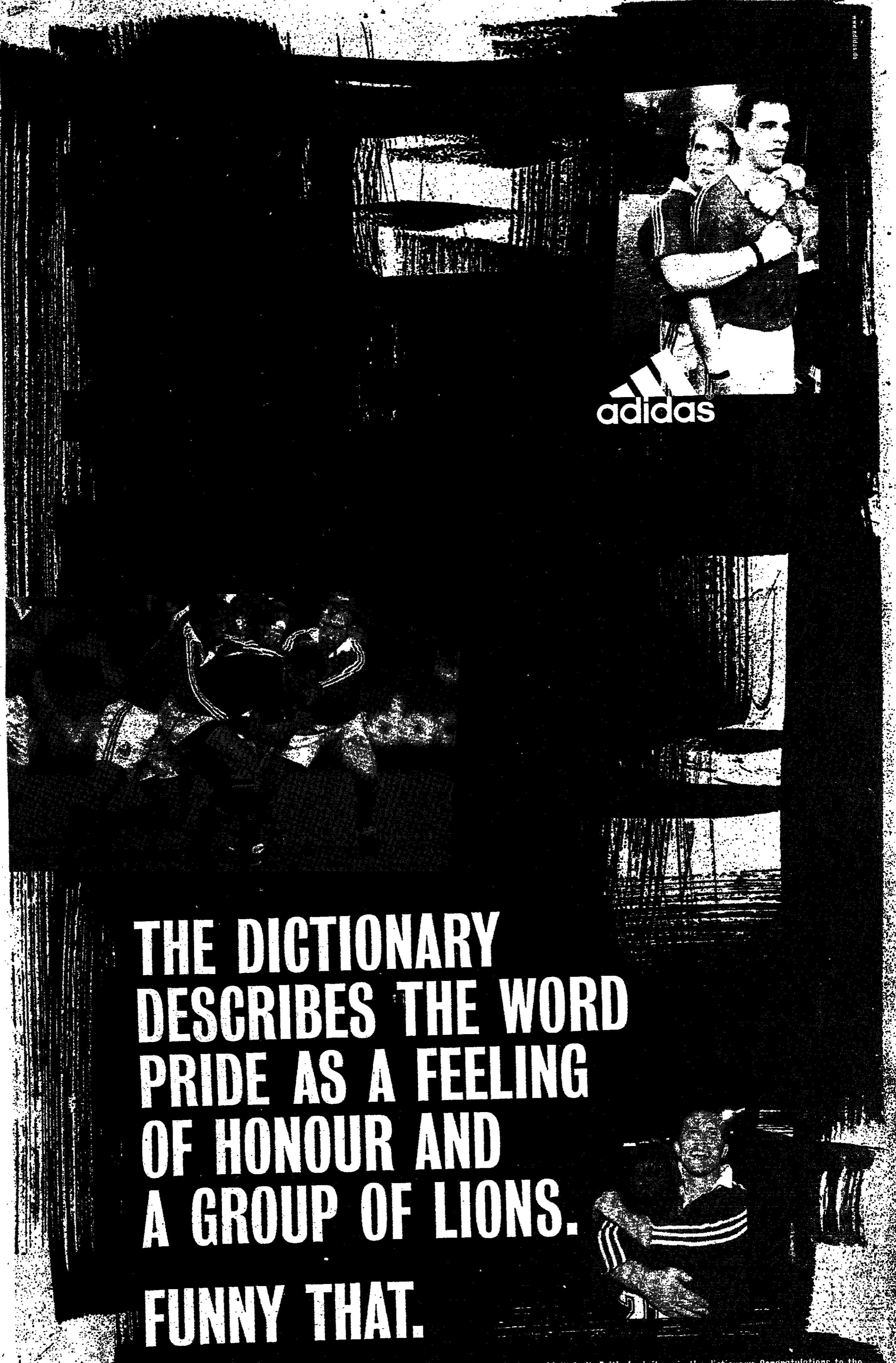
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After a gruelling season. After all the negative press. After losing key players. Some people thought they wouldn't do it. Faith. Look it up in the dictionary. Congratulations to the British Lions on an outstanding achievement in South Africa from adidas.

THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

THE CHESS STAKES**THUNDERER**

2.25 Misty Point, 2.25 Top Jam, 3.25 Phonetic, 3.35 Halmshera, 4.25 Gold Edge, 4.55 Pleasureland.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT, IN PLACES DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE**2.25 STARLING MAIDEN FILLIES STAKES**

(3-Y-O; £3,032; 6f 15yd) (10 runners)

1	42 BANT SHAMAN	12 (9f) 8-9	W J O'Connor
2	42 MADE GOLD	24 (f) Candy 8-11	D McCabe
3	48 MISTY POINT	25 (f) Building 8-11	V Saitoh
4	23 HORSES TO THE RACE	18 (f) P. Whelton 8-11	F. Morris
5	24 DUBLINER	23 (f) Candy 8-11	A. Morris
6	33 RIVER TWEED	17 (f) Gosselin 8-11	R. Phillips
7	40 SWIFT LADY	18 (f) P. Whelton 8-11	D. Biggs
8	52 Blue Tassel	2.25 (f) Candy 8-11	
9	52 Misty Point	2.25 (f) Candy 8-11	
10	52 Misty Point	2.25 (f) Candy 8-11	

SIS: 2.25 Misty Point, 2.25 Top Jam, 3.25 Phonetic, 3.35 Halmshera, 4.25 Gold Edge, 4.55 Pleasureland.

2.55 W A BLYTH 60TH ANNIVERSARY FILLIES HANDICAP

(£3,556; 1m 20yd) (6)

1	5100 CAPILANO PRINCESS	6 (D) Bay 4-5	D Hayes
2	5101 TOP JEM	7 (f) Bay 4-5	S. Heslop
3	5102 LOVELY HEART	6 (f) Bay 4-5	S. Heslop
4	4451 SHALAHETTO	25 (D,F,G) 4-5	S. Williams
5	4452 SWEET RIVERA	16 (f) Bay 4-5	F. Morris
6	4453 CLOUTIER	14 (D,F,G) A Peacock 4-5	F. Morris

SIS: 2.55 Misty Point, 2.25 Top Jam, 3.25 Phonetic, 3.35 Halmshera, 4.25 Gold Edge, 4.55 Pleasureland.

3.25 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP

(£4,354; 1m 14yd) (9)

1	405 KATHARINE'S BELIEF	6 (f) Candy 8-9	D. McCabe
2	406 SERENDIPITY	21 (f) Candy 8-11	A. Morris
3	410 PHRONIC	21 (D,F,G) Building 8-11	V. Saitoh
4	4302 REBEL TIME	18 (f) Candy 8-11	F. Morris
5	4303 RUMBLE	20 (f) Candy 8-11	A. Morris
6	4305 ORIENTER	40 (D,F,G) Building 8-11	W.J. O'Connor
7	4305 WEST SETTLER	20 (f) Candy 8-11	A. Morris
8	4306 RUMBLE	20 (f) Candy 8-11	A. Morris
9	4300 ZEPHYR	8 (D,F,G) Candy 8-11	A. Morris

SIS: 3.25 Misty Point, 2.25 Top Jam, 3.25 Phonetic, 3.35 Halmshera, 4.25 Gold Edge, 4.55 Pleasureland.

WOLVERHAMPTON**THUNDERER**

6.30 Final Prize, 7.00 Jazzy Refrain, 7.30 Old Hush Wing, 8.00 Roderick Hudson, 8.30 Iriskid, 9.00 Vision Of Freedom.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES DRAW: 7.5AM INSPECTION

6.30 CHEDDAR HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,936; 2m 4f 110yd) (4 runners)

1	112 FINAL PRIDE	15 (D,F,G) Bay 11-12	R. Johnson
2	113 RODERICK HUDDSON	15 (D,F,G) Bay 11-12	R. Johnson
3	114 IRISKID	15 (D,F,G) Bay 11-12	R. Johnson
4	115 VISION OF FREEDOM	14 (D,F,G) Bay 11-12	R. Johnson

SIS: 6.30 Final Prize, 7.00 Roderick Hudson, 8.30 Iriskid, 9.00 Vision Of Freedom.

7.00 STALTON HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,767; 2m) (5)

1	653 JAZZY REFRAIN	6 (D,F,G) 1 White 7-11	R. Johnson
2	655 RUMBLE	15 (D,F,G) Bay 11-12	R. Johnson
3	656 CLOUTIER	15 (D,F,G) Bay 11-12	R. Johnson
4	657 RUMBLE	15 (D,F,G) Bay 11-12	R. Johnson
5	658 RUMBLE	15 (D,F,G) Bay 11-12	R. Johnson

SIS: 7.00 Jazzy Refrain, 8.10 Roderick Hudson, 9.10 Vision Of Freedom.

7.30 I.A. METALS 10TH ANNIVERSARY MAIDEN HURDLE

(£2,005; 3m 10f) (9)

1	1000 BUNNY HARE	17 (f) 9-15	L. O'Donnell
2	1002 CROCKHILL BILL	17 (f) Building 9-15	R. Johnson
3	1003 MISTER MISTER	17 (f) Candy 9-15	R. Johnson
4	1004 MISTER MISTER	17 (f) Candy 9-15	R. Johnson
5	1014 PRINCE ITSY	17 (f) 9-15	L. O'Donnell
6	1015 RUSTIC FLIGHT	17 (f) Candy 9-15	R. Johnson
7	1016 RUMBLE	17 (f) Candy 9-15	R. Johnson
8	1005 PARIS THE SPY	18 (f) Candy 9-15	R. Johnson
9	1017 PUNCHING LIGHT	20 (f) Building 9-15	R. Johnson

SIS: 7.30 Bunny Hare, 9.2 Blue Lamp, 10.1 Prince Itsy, 10.1 Rumble, 10.1 Parisc The Spy, 10.1 Punching Light.

9.00 RED LEICESTER HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,002; 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

1	641 VISION OF FREEDOM	6 (D,F,G) 5 Yellow 8-11	L. O'Donnell
2	642 TOUCH SILVER	8 (f) Candy 8-11	A. Downing
3	643 RUMBLE	18 (f) Candy 8-11	R. Johnson
4	644 HONEYED WOOD	7 (f) S. Morris 8-11	A. Downing
5	645 FERNIE COOK	17 (f) Candy 8-11	A. Downing
6	646 PARIS THE SPY	18 (f) Candy 8-11	R. Johnson
7	647 PUNCHING LIGHT	20 (f) Building 8-11	R. Johnson

SIS: 9.00 Vision Of Freedom, 9.10 Touch Silver, 9.10 Honeyed Wood, 10.00 Paris The Spy, 10.1 Fernie Cook, 10.1 Punching Light.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINER: P. Chappell-Hugh, 8 winners from 85 horses, 25.0%, 1. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 172nd, 173rd, 174th, 175th, 176th, 177th, 178th, 179th, 180th, 181st, 182nd, 183rd, 184th, 185th, 186th, 187th, 188th, 189th, 190th, 191st, 192nd, 193rd, 194th, 195th, 196th, 197th, 198th, 199th, 200th, 201st, 202nd, 203rd, 204th, 205th, 206th, 207th, 208th, 209th, 210th, 211st, 212nd, 213rd, 214th, 215th, 216th, 217th, 218th, 219th, 220th, 221st, 222nd, 223rd, 224th, 225th, 226th, 227th, 228th, 229th, 230th, 231st, 232nd, 233rd, 234th, 235th, 236th, 237th, 238th, 239th, 240th, 241st, 242nd, 243rd, 244th, 245th, 246th, 247th, 248th, 249th, 250th, 251st, 252nd, 253rd, 254th, 255th, 256th, 257th, 258th, 259th, 260th, 261st, 262nd, 263rd, 264th, 265th, 266th, 267th, 268th, 269th, 270th, 271st, 272nd, 273rd, 274th, 275th, 276th, 277th, 278th, 279th, 280th, 281st, 282nd, 283rd, 284th, 285th, 286th, 287th, 288th, 289th, 290th, 291st, 292nd, 293rd, 294th, 295th, 296th, 297th, 298th, 299th, 300th, 301st, 302nd, 303rd, 304th, 305th, 306th, 307th, 3

TENNIS

Novotna has heart set on winning return

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

THE teenager named after a Wimbledon legend today embarks on a preordained mission to forge a legend of her own. Martina Hingis, imbued in the exploits of Martina Novotna, plays her first Wimbledon singles final against Jana Novotna, a beaten finalist in heart-rending circumstances four years ago. The urgency of youth is thus pitted against the clamour of sentiment.

Novotna will corner the affections of the Centre Court gallery after her defeat by Steffi Graf in 1993. If the tears she split on the Duchess of Kent's shoulder make an endearing sporting image, they have played too long on Novotna's brittle emotions. She held a point for a 5-1 lead in the third set before capitulating in spectacular fashion.

Nothing can better cleanse her mind than victory in the same arena. The prospect is encouraging. Novotna, 28, has been liberated by the absence of the injured Graf — who has won all five of their matches at Wimbledon. She approaches the match in excellent fettle, having beaten Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, twice a finalist, in straight sets in the last four. Novotna's grass-court game is the perfect antidote to Hingis's baseline style, which may be compromised by the uneven bounce on a rutted Centre Court.

Nevertheless, the four-year-old ghost refuses to submit. Novotna, the No 3 seed, said: "I have talked about it a lot. In 1993, I had to prove to myself and everybody else that I was a good player. I wanted it too much and I was never able to play my best tennis. Over the years, my outlook has changed. Tennis is not everything, there is a life outside."

She was alluding to the illness of her father, who recently relapsed into a serious illness that he suffered from two years ago. Knowing that her parents are to watch the match on television, in the

Czech Republic, will test Novotna's assertion that she has learnt to relax. She pulled out of the women's doubles tournament yesterday, citing a strain in her upper thigh that is not expected to trouble her today.

By contrast to Hingis, who has yet to play a third set here, Novotna has twice been taken the distance — by Elena Likhovtseva and Mary Joe Fernandez. Her sharing of the Eastbourne title with Sanchez Vicario means that she is unbeaten in three weeks' of grass-court tennis. Her confidence could hardly be higher.

It will need to be against Hingis, the world No 1 and similarly seeded here. Unlike

Novotna, the teenager, who is still only 16, already holds a grand-slam title, having triumphed in the Australian Open in January.

She has lost just once this year, to Iva Majoli, of Croatia, in the final of the French Open, and she holds a 3-2 advantage in previous matches with Novotna, winning most recently in March at the Lipton championships in Florida.

Hingis will start the final today as favourite, although Novotna, the winner of nine Wimbledon singles titles, will be shocked to learn of her disdain for the place — particularly Centre Court, which Novotna made her second home.

"I hate this court," Hingis said. "I hate grass, because you have to think differently on the surface. You have to put the first serve in more often." Of Novotra's outstanding record here, Hingis said: "She just loved the Wimbledon tournament. Hopefully I, too, will love it one day."

Hingis has yet to face a seeded player on her way to the final and her inexperience and dislike of grass may tug at her confidence. If Novotna can exploit the lack of pace on Hingis's second service, the Centre Court crowd may join her in this time shedding tears of joy.



COVERAGE: Television: Today: BBC1: Grandstand, from 1.45pm; BBC2: Live, from 1.25pm (with cricket). Tomorrow: BBC1: Live, from 1.30pm; BBC2: Sunday, 1.30pm (with football); BBC3: Radio 5 Live: Today: Live, from 1.0pm (with cycling, cricket, golf). **WEATHER:** Mostly dry and sunny



Novotna will have the crowd's support today and her grass-court game is the perfect foil for Hingis's baseline style

Big girls reward lonely vigil

Although the law of diminishing returns. I knew it would come in handy one day. Out on No 18 Court, where that fascinating prospect of a mixed doubles third-round match (Sapsford and Siddall v Broad and de Swardt) was rained off twice yesterday afternoon, the initially small crowd of 32 returned in smaller and smaller (diminishing) numbers until there was actually nobody at all. First there were 32, then 11, and then just me, sitting on a damp, tip-up seat with my rain-hood on, pretending to enjoy a choc ice and attempting to hail passers-by ("Come on, you'll love it") with very little hope of success.

The weather was at its most deeply irritating yesterday. Play in this match started... and then it stopped, with only two points played. Covers went on, then came off again, then went on again with only a knock-up intervening. Why do they still bother with a knock-up when clouds are patiently gathering overhead? More over, was it possible to extrapolate an entire match from just two points, the way zoologists reconstruct dinosaurs from a single toe nail? While I was considering this option, the linesmen returned to the court for the second time, to the smattering of smattering. It's odd how just one person clapping always sounds cackie, no matter how enthusiastic she really is.

Once they got going, these four proceeded predictably.

Broad and de Swardt broke Shirlie-Ann Siddall's service in the twelfth game to win the first set 7-5; in the second set, they finished them off 6-3.

Some rather good rallying displays were appreciated by the slowly swelling crowd — it's those volleying bits that always give the crowds a laugh, isn't it? — and, just to add a note of controversy, Neil (British) Broad contested a line-call with "Ya luff it"

moving, while the chap dashed madly back, forth and sideways in a must-do-everything sort of way. As I remember it, my only function in our matches was to mouth the word "Sorry" from time to time, when the chap body-surfed heroically across my ground to the net, or slid past me on his bum into the net.

I should have taken some knitting along really, but unfortunately I didn't have the strength of character for even a silent protest. But I have just remembered that his name was Gerald, which is interesting because I haven't thought about him in the net.

Woodie M reached the round of 16, where he took a set off Michael Stich, who went on to become one of the unseeded semi-finalists. Woody T did still better, reaching the semi-finals where he had the ill-fortune to meet Sampras. Sampras won 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 and needed no luck whatsoever.

The Woodies won 12 doubles titles last year. They won the Olympic competition, too, beating the pairing of Broad and a chap called Heenan.

They have won four consecutive Wimbledon titles. They

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since open tennis began, were

it not for John McEnroe and

Peter Fleming, who in 1979

won 15.

It was always one of the

many oddly and more or less

paradoxically endearing things about McEnroe that he

liked to play doubles. It was,

not as if he needed the money,

still less the practice. What he

did need was a friend on the

court.

Few of the very big names in

men's tennis play doubles.

Instead, they take the hard

and lonely road. For them,

tennis is seldom always a

fierce and terrible drama. But

that is true for spectators, too.

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking & Screaming

be kiddish me!, showing off its adoptive accent to full effect.

Mixed doubles, it has to be said, is the final you watch on the telly when the big, heavy singles stuff is all done. It's synonymous with lengthening shadows and a big silly smile on your face. If memory serves, you usually get a ladies champion partnering some biddable muscular unseeded chap, together beating a couple of unknowns, with a good time had by all. By that stage in the tournament, mixed doubles is a way of returning tennis to the status of fun.

Third-round stuff is considerably more serious and dampening to the spirits, but it was good to see the big girls (who simply don't come much bigger) holding their own, since my only experience of a participant in mixed doubles (at age 15) was being told to stand at the net without

moving, while the chap dashed madly back, forth and sideways in a must-do-everything sort of way. As I remember it, my only function in our matches was to mouth the word "Sorry" from time to time, when the chap body-surfed heroically across my ground to the net, or slid past me on his bum into the net.

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RESULTS FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men's singles

Winner: \$415,000

Runner-up: \$207,500

Holders: R Krajicek (Hol)

Final

S SAMPRAS (Aus) bt T A Woodbridge (Aus)

6-3, 6-2, 6-4

C Prince (Fr) ladv M Stich (Ger) 6-7, 6-2, 6-1

Men's doubles

Winners: £170,000

Runners-up: £85,010

Holders: T A Woodbridge (Aus) and M Woodforde (Aus)

Final

JELLINEK (Hol) and P HAARHUIS (Ned) bt M DABORN (Cz) and P WINTER (Cz) 6-2, 6-4, 6-4

N BARNARD (SA) and R DODD (Eng) 6-2, 6-4, 6-4

N GOLDBECK (USA) and R HEINZMAN (USA) bt D E SAWARD (South Africa) and K GOLDBECK (USA) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3

Quarter-finals

T A WOODBRIDGE (Aus) and M WOODFORDE (Aus) bt J BJORNESEN (Nor) and N KULITTA (USA) 6-2, 6-2, 6-3

E LININGH (Ned) and H PHILIPPOUSSIS (Aus) and P RAFTER (Aus) 6-4, 7-5, 6-4

Women's doubles

Winners: £147,010

Runners-up: £73,270

Holders: M Hingis (Switz) and H Sukova (Cz)

Final

S APPLEMANS (Bel) and M OREMANS (Bel) bt S KUNICEK (USA) and M McNAMEE (USA) 6-3, 6-2

G FRANCOZ (Aus) and N ZVEREVA (Aus) bt F VERNETTE (USA) and L M RAYMOND (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

L NEARY (USA) and H SUKOVA (Cz) bt E HOLLOWAY (USA) and G HOLMES (USA) 6-4, 6-4

Quarter-finals

S APPLEMANS (Bel) and M OREMANS (Bel) bt P B MOHR (USA) and P McNAMEE (USA) 6-3, 6-2

G FRANCOZ (Aus) and N ZVEREVA (Aus) bt F VERNETTE (USA) and L M RAYMOND (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

L NEARY (USA) and H SUKOVA (Cz) bt DOWDALL and MOLMAN 7-5, 6-3; Dowdall and Molman 7-5, 6-3; Neary and Holloway 6-4, 6-4

Other

Winners: £14,000

Runners-up: £7,000 (Pap)

T WILKINSON (USA)

First Round (round robin)

P B MOHR (USA) and P McNAMEE (USA) bt G FRANCOZ (Aus) and N ZVEREVA (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2

G FRANCOZ (Aus) and N ZVEREVA (Aus) bt F VERNETTE (USA) and L M RAYMOND (USA) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4

L NEARY (USA) and H SUKOVA (Cz) bt DOWDALL and MOLMAN 7-5, 6-3; Dowdall and Molman 7-5, 6-3; Neary and Holloway 6-4, 6-4

Second Round

DOWDALL and MOLMAN 6-4, 6-4

FRANCOZ and ZVEREVA 6-4, 6-4

NEARY and HOLLOWAY 6-4, 6-4

WILKINSON and SUKOVA 6-4, 6-4

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THE TIMES SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

GOLF

Westwood fortifies challenge by new order

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBLIN

THE young European players for whom there have been so many calls as their seniors move towards the Phyllosian age seem to be arriving. Lee Westwood, 24, has widened his lead at the halfway stage of the Murphy's Irish Open and though the field is studded with every gnarled veteran of golf on this Continent it is two twentysomething Scandinavians who are sharing second place.

Michael Jonzon, 25, from Sweden, broke Westwood's course record of 65 at Druids Glen, which had lasted all of 24 hours. A 64, including one bogey and a dazzling run of five successive birdies, was good scoring on a difficult day. It took Jonzon, the Portuguese Open champion, to six under-par and within two strokes of Westwood.

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It was illuminating to patrol the 9th, 10th and 11th holes with Nick Faldo, Padraig Harrington and Raymond Burns played through, followed immediately by Westwood, Sam Torrance and Ronan Rafferty. Faldo was fretting, as only he can.

The inconsistencies that he is having with his putting were encapsulated on two of these holes. On the 9th, Fanny Sunesson helped him to line up his five-foot birdie putt, squatting behind him as he addressed the ball — a routine that they sometimes use and sometimes forego. It did not work.

Faldo produced a blistering start, never rating below 40 until just before the Quarter Mile, where he led by 1½ lengths. That quarter length of clear water was crucial, since Searle could never crack the Dutch student. "He hung on and on and I knew I would have to race all the way," Searle said.

His semi-final opponent today is Jamie Koven, the top American, who celebrated the Fourth of July with a more

comfortable win over his countryman, Steve Tucker.ominously in a slightly faster time than Searle. Peter Haining, the British lightweight, will meet Matthias van Schoot of Holland, in the other semi-final.

The potentially intriguing Women's Sculls race between Guin Batten, the British No 1, and Sarah Winckless, the 6ft 4in young pretender from Cambridge, was an anti-climax. After about 30 strokes, Batten, who had a slight lead, moved over into Winckless's lane. The umpire, Angus Roberson, said nothing. Batten moved back, but just before the quarter-mile, the blades overlapped and clashed. The umpire remained mute.

Batten carried on, Winckless hesitated and the issue

was decided. Winckless appealed at the finish, but Roberson said: "You were out of your water and you were behind."

Winckless admitted: "Nobody should have been dis-qualified, but I couldn't believe it was allowed to get to the clashing stage."

Mike Sweeney, the umpire, was more exercised in a great Thames Cup eights race between Thames Tradesmen and London RC. There is no love lost between the two Tideway rivals and the score this season stood at 2-1 to London before yesterday's contest. Tradesmen managed to hold on to an early narrow lead, but both crews were warned for steering up the Enclosures. Jemma Fearnside, the Tradesmen's cox, who switched between the two

clubs this year, appearing most at fault. A post-race appeal by London was turned down.

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**CYCLING 41**

Flying start the key to success for Boardman

SPORT

SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

England's tormentor returns to seize initiative in third Test



Waugh leads the Australian celebrations after Crawley, caught behind by Healy, becomes the fourth of his five victims at Old Trafford yesterday. Photograph: Dan Chung

Warne casts his spell again

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD (second day of five): England, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 74 runs behind Australia

PERHAPS it was the place that inspired him, a pilgrimage to his Mecca, or perhaps it was the fact that the world and his wife had become experts in physical ailments and psychology and pronounced that his career was on the critical list. Something got him going and Shane Warne, when roused, remains a formidable opponent.

He has always possessed that precious ability to transform a game with a baffling speed and sleight of hand and he did so yesterday, casting his mesmeric spell at the very time when Australia were in danger of declining towards a potentially decisive second defeat.

At 74 for one, in reply to an evidently inadequate 235, Eng-

land were contemplating a position of command by the second evening of the third Cornhill Test. Then Warne made a nonsense of strategy and speculation with a spell as devastating as any in an Ashes cuttings book that dates back four years to his unforgettable introductory ball on this same ground.

Seven England wickets went down for 49 runs and Warne's contribution was to take five of them for 19, his first five-wicket return for 16 Tests spanning 19 months. He was helped by a pitch offering turn, sometimes lavish when the ball pitched in the footmarks outside leg stump, but the greatest assistance came from compliant batting.

Whatever theories England have produced to counter the danger of Warne — and they have been hours and weeks in the making — were either forgotten or ineffective. Even bowling of this soaring quality should not paralyse the minds and movements of Test-match

players, but successive batsmen departed to strokes of sacrificial ineptitude.

By the time that Mark Ealham and Andy Caddick came together in a defiant ninth-wicket stand that raised 38, Australia were strutting their stuff for the first time on tour. They will not easily be subdued again.

Once Gillespie had been caught behind off Headley, who had dropped a return catch the previous ball, England's initial assignment was to reach lunch unscathed. They failed. Atherton flapping at a pull against McGrath to give Healy a leg-side catch, but by the interval, Mark Butcher and Alec Stewart were proceeding serenely.

Steve Waugh had predicted that his eighth-wicket stand with Paul Reiffel could decide the match and he may be right, but England, back on their game, were doubtless content. Darren Gough rediscovered his yorker to flatten Reiffel off stump, then bowled Waugh off an inside edge with another inswinger of full length.

Waugh's four-hour hundred, ranked even by his own severe self-analysis as his best in Test cricket, exhibited all the virtues of mental resilience and technical merit that England could not match. He also stood in supreme isolation above his own players.

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There had been only two moments of alarm. One came when Stewart misjudged a second run to square leg so badly that he almost ran out his brother-in-law, and the other arose when Warne's first ball failed only narrowly to emulate the 1993 vintage by spinning viciously out of the rough. Butcher, however, sur-

vived this and all else the Australians could bowl at him with impressive calm. He left the ball skillfully and selectively, and, as a pitch now dried and paled by the sunshine offered ever less to the seam bowlers, England advanced with assurance. What happened next would have begged belief had we all not seen Warne do similar things several times over.

Stewart was first to depart, and if his feet were crease-bound and his stroke deficient, it was still a fine piece of bowling. Warne, pitching around leg stump, obtained such bounce and turn that it took an outside edge at the top of the bat and was expertly caught by Taylor at slip.

Butcher will be distressed by his dismissal, coming after so much solid graft and only one ball after completing his second successive Test fifty. Bevan, as is his occasional wont, served up a leg-side full toss. It should have gone for four, but Butcher missed it. The worst was yet to come, for it was clear that the tea interval had done nothing to calm England's rising sense of paranoia, a familiar affliction when Warne is in such a mood. Hussain and Crawley offered tame, hypnotised prods, sacrificial to Warne's leg break. So hard were they trying to open their shoulders, the latest technical play impressed upon the England batsmen, that they ended up looking as inept as schoolboys playing French cricket.

Croft, caught in the slip-stream of the devastation, heaved McGrath flat-footed to extra cover and Warne, animated to the point of intimidation, finally won a leg-before decision as Gough propped forward.

Ealham, whose cricket is nothing if not sensible, showed with Caddick that this pitch is far from unplayable. It is, however, turning ever more and even if England creep close on first innings, Warne awaits them in the second. His blood is up, his googly has begun to work; if he can operate again with men round the bat, Australia should level the series by Monday, at the latest.

ESSEX fumbled, page 41

SCOREBOARD FROM OLD TRAFFORD

Australia won toss		0	G D McGrath not out (4mn 2 balls)	0	[Ealham 1], 7-122 (Ealham 2), 8-123
AUSTRALIA, First Innings:			Extras 5 b 4 nb 3)	15	[Ealham 2], Bowling: McGrath 22-8-38-3 (4 fours, 3-1-6-2); Caddick 12-5-20-2 (2 fours, 2-1-1-1); Reiffel 9-3-14-0 (2 fours, 6-2-10-0, 3-1-4-0); Warne 28-12-48-5 (5 fours, 3-1-10-0, 2-1-1-5); Hussain 13-5-25-0 (4 fours, 4-2-12-0); Bevan 8-3-14-1 (1 four, 3-0-12-1, 5-3-2-0)
M A Taylor c Thorpe b Headley (20min 100 92 balls, 1 four)	2	Total 773 (overs: 320min)	13	SCORING NOTES: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)	
G S Blewett b Gough (18min, 13 balls, 1 four)	40	PAUL REIFFEL not out (8mn 71-72) (Shot: 12-3-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1)	22	Reiffel 12-3-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1; Headley 12-3-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1; Warne 28-12-48-5 (5 fours, 3-1-10-0, 2-1-1-5); Hussain 13-5-25-0 (4 fours, 4-2-12-0); Bevan 8-3-14-1 (1 four, 3-0-12-1, 5-3-2-0)	
M Ealham c Headley b Waugh (55min, 27 balls, 2 fours)	12	WAUGH 22, S-112 (S R Waugh 35, 6-150)	3	RESULTS: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)	
S H Waugh b Gough (240min 175 balls, 13 fours)	100	J P Crawley c Headley b Warne (10min 10-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1)	4	Hussain 13-5-25-0 (4 fours, 4-2-12-0); Bevan 8-3-14-1 (1 four, 3-0-12-1, 5-3-2-0)	
M G Bevan c Headley b Headley (100min, 25 balls, 1 four)	7	D Caddick c Headley b Warne (10min 10-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1)	23	SCORING NOTES: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)	
11 A Healy c Stewart b Caddick (35min, 20 balls, 1 four)	9	R D B Croft c R Waugh b McGrath (10min 10-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1)	1	Reiffel 12-3-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1; Headley 12-3-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1; Warne 28-12-48-5 (5 fours, 3-1-10-0, 2-1-1-5); Hussain 13-5-25-0 (4 fours, 4-2-12-0); Bevan 8-3-14-1 (1 four, 3-0-12-1, 5-3-2-0)	
S K Warne c Stewart b Ealham (100min, 26 balls, 1 four)	3	M A Stewart c Taylor b Warne (12min 29 balls, 3 fours)	23	RESULTS: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)	
P R Reiffel c Headley (123min 84 balls, 1 four)	31	R D B Croft c R Waugh b McGrath (10min 140 balls, 5 fours)	1	Reiffel 12-3-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1; Headley 12-3-18-1, 5-2-18-1, 4-5-5-1; Warne 28-12-48-5 (5 fours, 3-1-10-0, 2-1-1-5); Hussain 13-5-25-0 (4 fours, 4-2-12-0); Bevan 8-3-14-1 (1 four, 3-0-12-1, 5-3-2-0)	
J M Gollapudi c Stewart b Headley (13min 21 balls)	0	EALHAM 31, 3-94 (Hussain 61, 4-101)	167	RESULTS: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)	
ENGLAND, First Innings:		51	D Caddick c Headley b Warne (17min 29 balls)	5	RESULTS: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)
FALL OF WICKETS: (1) Butcher 22, Ealham 31, 3-94 (Hussain 61, 4-101)		5	RESULTS: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)		
S TAYLOR c Headley b Warne (17min 29 balls)		5	RESULTS: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)		
G S BLEWETT c Headley b Warne (17min 29 balls)		5	RESULTS: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)		
M A STEWART c Headley b Warne (17min 29 balls)		5	RESULTS: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)		
J M GOLLAPUDI c Stewart b Headley (17min 29 balls)		0	RESULTS: Second day: Lunch: 9-15-10-2 (2 fours, 1-1-1-1); Tea: 110-4 (48 overs)		

bar. Australia supporters, who had flown halfway round the world to watch their team, were cock-a-hoop. "This is the first sunshine we've had since we got here five weeks ago and only the second day without rain," said Bobby, a Queenslander with two pints in his hand. "This is some place. In Brisbane, you get up and you know there will be blue skies outside."

But he had never had any doubt about Warne. "He was always going to come good and today is the day. That said, some of the English shots were crud. This day will be the turning point of the tour."

One of Bobby's friends from home refused to come on the trip because he felt it would be boring to watch England being trounced again and did not rate some of the Australian players either. "He thought he'd

rather save his money." Bobby and the mate that he brought with him instead paid for their trip with a big win at a casino, though they planned to come anyway. When they have not been watching the cricket or the rain, they have been drinking beer and chasing girls. "We've not had much luck in that area, unfortunately." Maybe the sunshine will help in that direction, too.

After tea, English wickets continued to go down. "Like a pack of cards" in the words of David Lloyd. As each wicket fell, the crowd remained seated and silent, save for sparse bunches of green-hats, who leaped up and down. Late in the day, Ealham and Caddick gave the home supporters something to cheer about, but Warne's parting words rang in the ears: "You'll be seeing the best of us from now on."

RUGBY UNION 41

Lions given extra incentive by prospect of rare clean sweep

Sampras has fourth title in his sights

By JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

PETE SAMPRAS strode purposefully towards a fourth Wimbledon title yesterday when he swept aside Todd Woodbridge of Australia in straight sets. Sampras was anxious to close out the match on another day punctuated by rain. He then made his excuses, leaving Cedric Pioline and Michael Stich jousting for the dubious honour of facing him tomorrow.

The honour is dubious because Sampras, who came through 6-2, 6-1, 7-6, touched sublime heights against an opponent who struck hard to stay with the world No 1. It made no difference. Sampras has refined the art of winning within himself, breaking out of a canteen for the third-set tie-break. He breezed away with that, too, drawing eulogies from Woodbridge in the post-match analysis.

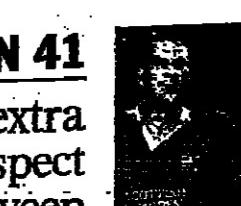
"Today I played one of the greatest tennis players, playing great," Woodbridge reflected. "It was a pleasure to be out there playing against him. Not many people get to appreciate how good a player he is when they are not on court with him. At least I got to see that side of it."

Sampras, whose two previous Wimbledon encounters with Woodbridge saw them share the honours, might have expected a tougher examination. Woodbridge, for his part, felt he had done all he could. "There were winners flying about all over the place," he said. "I thought I played quite well and I think he has a pretty good chance to win this title again."

Should Sampras prevail tomorrow, he will move up to fourth place, with as many triumphs, in the all-time list of men's champions at Wimbledon. With all due respect to Woodbridge, it is hard to envisage what can stop him. Sampras, seeded No 1 for the fourth consecutive year, does not have an apparent weakness.

Admittedly, he struggled against Peter Korda in the fourth round, losing consecutive tie-breaks before clinching the deciding set. One senses that, if he is to lose these championships, it will be through his own doing; he cannot surely be outplayed.

Indeed, when Woodbridge broke him for the only time in the match in the third set, it



Results _____ 46
Lynne Truss _____ 46
Novotna's mission _____ 46

played five matches in as many days.

Sampras's demeanour here comes in total contrast to the man who succumbed without much fuss in the Stella Artois tournament at Queen's Club last month. On that occasion, Sampras seemed almost disinterested during his defeat by Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden. The explanation rests entirely with Wimbledon's reputation among players. Its silverware is the most sought after — and Sampras, has learnt to save himself for the big occasions.

The major tournaments are what it is all about for me," he said. "I have a chance on Sunday to get another one. I am very motivated and ready to play. I am very confident on grass. I have grown to love it. You can't play any careless tennis. I don't mind who I play in the final; either way, I feel like I'm playing well." Those words make an ominous warning.

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Bobby from Brisbane sees Ashes set ablaze

Simon Wilde on how the mood of euphoria at Old

Trafford was shattered by one magical spell

Frederick Spofforth, the great Australian bowler, declared to his teammates before they denied England the 85 runs that they needed for victory in the match that gave birth to the Ashes in 1882 — "this thing can be done". This time, England really could regain the urn.

The demise of Hennan at Wimbledon was just a blip on Britain's sporting graph, the way Alan Crompton, the Australian tour manager, had talked on the radio the previous evening about the pitch "crumbling" — mere propaganda. Warne's first ball may have produced an uncomfortable echo of the past, but, when all is said and done, it was pitched unthreateningly short. Yet the sun's emergence was not the cue for English euphoria but Australian assertion. The warmth and a zephyr that dried and hard-

ened the pitch, was working its magic for Warne — Michael Atherton said before the match that the leg spinner would be hoping for "five days of sun" — and he promptly produced a smother to remove Stewart. Butcher and Thorpe quickly followed and, when the players came in at tea, Crawley and Hussain looked pensive under their helmets and the Australians returned to concerted applause from their colleagues.

Film boost threatened by skills shortage

Tax breaks may increase British production but who will provide the know-how? Dalya Alberge reports

LEADING film-makers expressed concern yesterday about the shortage of technicians to work on the extra films expected to be made after the boost to the industry from tax incentives announced in the Budget.

Sir David Puttnam, whose films include *Chariots of Fire*, and David Green, who made the television documentaries *Hollywood Women*, called for the industry to invest in training programmes.

"I'm really struggling to find people at every level of the film business," Mr Green said. "There is a finite number of good technicians."

Sir David called on the industry to do something about increasing the "talent pool". He said that unless action was taken the health of the British film industry would be seriously harmed.

Mr Green spoke of a shortage of support staff at every level, including camera-operators, cinematographers, production managers and assistant directors. Even specialist accountants — those who understand the nature of the



Green: struggling to find the right people

feature film as a one-off project — are hard to come by.

Britain was famous for the quality of its technicians but the best were being lured away by Hollywood, and by big-budget films being made in Britain by overseas producers. They could afford huge wages that low-budget films could never compete with. He noted that America had never been stronger: more American

producers were making films in Britain than ever before.

There has already been the pressure of a great increase in indigenous films. Last year Britain made 100, almost doubling the figure of ten years ago. As recently as 1980, the total was just 35. At the peak of the industry, 1955 — the era of the Ealing comedies such as *The Ladykillers* — 150 films were British-made.

Ray Lockett, deputy general secretary of Bectu, the technicians' union, said: "There is a growing skills crisis." He called for a massive investment in training.

Mr Lockett noted that many of the people once employed in broadcasting had become freelance because of cost-cutting measures. The BBC was offering far less in-house training owing to a pressure on budgets. Also, budget-cuts on feature films meant that fewer assistants were being employed. That used to be a significant way for people to learn the trade. The industry, he said, must compensate for such changes. "There is clear evidence of shortages. The



Michael Bray, left, and Billy Hurman, right, on the set of their comedy *Sea Change* with Maryam d'Abo and Sean Chapman

crucial areas are training for new entrants and new technology."

At the low end, technicians are prepared to accept deferred payments; those at the top end can name their price. Finding technicians is not the only problem. Film-makers have long been concerned about the celluloid mountain.

Barely half the films made in Britain get a theatrical release because the cinemas are booked up with blockbusters from American studios which own the multiplexes.

Despite his concerns and criticisms, Mr Green welcomes the tax incentives. It will encourage the production of arthouse films such as his

recent *House of America*, to be released in October, "which wouldn't have been made without lottery money because arthouse films are not easy to finance."

Mr Green called on the industry to respond to the skill shortages, while acknowledging that there were "no quick solutions or easy answers".

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Men with no name lure a Bond girl

By DALYA ALBERGE

MANTIC. The sea change is the whole change he wants to go through.

The film has already been sold to six countries, including Germany and Spain, and will be promoted at the Milan Film Festival. Leading fashion designers, including Catherine Walker and Margaret Howell, provided the costumes.

Mr Hurman, 40, made ends meet by working in marketing for various publications after graduating from Exeter University, where he studied economics. He wrote the script in a dilapidated two-bedroom flat in Shepherd's Bush. Mr Bray, who has acting experience, is directing the film.

Mr Hurman said they found that people were obsessed with whether "you're a name in your field" and although production companies were keen on a low budget they wanted stars among the cast.

"Why haven't you got Hugh Grant?" they would ask him.

"Some were incredibly supportive and some incredibly dismissive. There were an awful lot of time wasters. It was a question of keeping going. You have to believe in what you're doing."

Whenever he reached the point of giving up, he would ask himself: "What are the alternatives? All I've ever wanted to do was get into film production."

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Montserrat youngsters turn to sex and drink in despair

FROM TOM RHODES IN MONTSENNAT

MANY of the young people of Montserrat, the Caribbean island threatened with destruction by its turbulent Chances Peak volcano, have found solace in alcohol and casual sex as they await their fate.

Clifford Farrell, a fireman and rescue worker in what traditionally has been a staunchly religious British colony, is one of many who has sent young families to Britain in search of a better life. "A lot of the young people swear and start fights," he said. "Young girls are getting pregnant and a lot of people are permanently drunk on rum. It is not the sort of environment that I want for my family."

Some teenage girls have turned to prostitution at weekends to earn extra money, and rapes have been reported.

At the Seventh Day Adventist Shelter in Salem, David Farrell, a former building worker, was close to despair. "You go berserk sometimes, searching all day for work and coming back empty-handed," he said. "And then you see girls as young as 13 going out to look for custom just for a few dollars. I think the British Government needs to take us all out of here."

Islanders are already leaving Montserrat in droves. Half the colony's nurses announced this week that they will stay.

But with the fabric of society in steep decline and little sign that the volcano will cease its activity, Whitehall will have to act very quickly indeed if one of Britain's few remaining dependent territories is to be saved.

As constable Standard Kelly of the Montserrat Police Force, put it: "One day this might come to an end and this island will go back to what it once was, but I think it is lost for my generation."

The costly refit is believed by Israeli officials to have been

volcano had become too dangerous and said that they were leaving for Britain.

Having complained for months about poor conditions at the makeshift hospital in St John's, the deaths of as many as 23 people in devastating lava flows last week proved the final straw.

"It is no longer safe for ourselves, our families and the population to live in Montserrat," said 31 of the 50 nurses in a public letter requesting severance package arrangements from the local authorities.

Dozens of other government workers have taken a two-year leave of absence from their jobs to go to Britain. Bertrand Osborne, the island's Chief Minister, said he hoped the Government would react quickly to the crisis after Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, the junior Foreign Office Minister, reported back to London on her visit to Montserrat this week.

"Without instant results, I think we will have a problem unless we can assure the people of Montserrat that there is hope of proper employment, housing and a hospital," he said. "I am sure that once they realise we are serious about building the infrastructure in the north, they will stay."

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Mir rescue in deep water

Space engineers at Russia's Star City perform tests 40ft underwater on a replica of the damaged Mir space station yesterday after vital repairs to the crippled craft were postponed to give its crew an extra week of training. The engineers were practising the crew's tricky repair job. Russian flight controllers have been feverishly looking for the best way to carry out the repair work on the

damaged Spektr module, which was punctured in a collision with a cargo ship on June 25. The crew — including the British-born astronaut Michael Foale — needs time to get familiar with repair equipment being sent to Mir on a cargo ship

that blasts off today. Mir has been reduced to half-power since the collision and has problems with its alignment system. The repair effort will involve Mir's commander, Vasily Tsibliev, going into the damaged module to re-connect ca-

bles from the solar batteries and run them back through a new, custom-designed hatch. Such work never has been done before," said Viktor Reznichenko, an official with the Cosmonauts Training Centre at Star City, just north of Moscow. Mr Reznichenko organised yesterday's practice session in diving suits. "It can be accomplished, but it's going to be real tough," he said. (AP)

Netanyahu flies into storm over luxury plane plan

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, and his family were yesterday plunged into a political row over plans to spend more than \$600,000 refurbishing the Jewish state's equivalent of US Air Force One.

The costly refit is believed by Israeli officials to have been

influenced by Mr Netanyahu's wife, Sara, who has been at the centre of a number of personal scandals since he came to power and decided to give her a more prominent public role than those of previous Prime Ministers' wives.

According to the respected Tel Aviv daily *Haaretz*, plans are under way to fit the traditionally austere plane

used by the Prime Minister and President Weizman with a playground for the Netanyahus' two children and a larger, more luxurious bedroom.

The popular President, who was first informed of the renovations via the Israeli media, was swift to denounce them as unnecessary and over-expensive. An Israeli source said that Mr Weizman was angry at not being con-

sulted and that he feared that he was being used as "cover" for improvements being done half in his name that he knew nothing about.

The costly renovations were reported to include the building-in of a double bed, bathroom and dressing table for Mrs Netanyahu. Israel's Air Force One is one of the world's least ostentatious official planes with a single bed for

the most important passenger and bunks for his officials.

□ Crisis deepens. The security crisis between Israel and the Palestinians sparked by posters depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig deepened yesterday with 29 Palestinians wounded in the West Bank city of Hebron in fierce riots staged in defiance of efforts by supporters of Yassir Arafat to halt them.



10p

GRAND PRIX

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THE TIMES

FEATURE

The Last Party.
Extracts from Adele Mailer's new book on Norman Mailer and America in the 1950s.

IN MONDAY'S 10P TIMES

TENNIS

Top reports on the men's final from Wimbledon.

MUSIC

A review of the ever youthful Diana Ross in concert.

CHANGING TIMES

JULY 11, 1997

WORLD SUMMARY

'Amnesty' children revealed

Hong Kong: Hundreds of families rushed yesterday to surrender children smuggled in from China after an announcement that the illegal immigrants could stay while the background of their parents was checked.

The parents interpreted the ruling as an amnesty. While all residents' children may, under the Basic Law, now live in the territory, they must apply in mainland China and face a wait that could be years. (Reuters)

Inquiry falters

Paris: A court yesterday dropped a corruption inquiry into Jean Tiberi, the Gaullist Mayor of Paris, and his wife, because investigators had followed incorrect legal procedures (Ben Macintyre writes).

In Marseilles, Bernard Tapie, the tycoon jailed for bribery, was given another 18 months for embezzling the Olympique football club.

Bomb suspect

Paris: Boualem Bensaid, an Algerian, is being formally investigated on suspicion of helping to organise the 1995 bomb attack on a Paris Metro train that killed eight people. Judges told relatives of the victims: They said that Mr Bensaid was the first suspect officially to be targeted in the investigation. (Reuters)

War aide dies

Johannesburg: General Friedrich Wilhelm von Melenthin, former military intelligence chief for Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, has died in Johannesburg, aged 92. Born in Breslau, he emigrated in 1950 and led Lufthansa's South Africa operations from 1961 to 1969. (AFP)

Lost in transit

Canberra: Fifteen Sri Lankan boat people spent three days wandering lost in bushland after being dropped on Australia's remote western coast by a Taiwanese fishing boat and told they could find a bus or train to the nearest civilisation. (Reuters)

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'Insensitive Britain' shocks Holocaust victim's son

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

The Hungarian-born son of a Holocaust victim who tried to retrieve his father's prewar savings in the London branch of a Swiss bank was told repeatedly by the Department of Trade that it was confiscated as "enemy property".

Dr Peter Csango first inquired about the account when the Cold War eased briefly in 1963. He made a formal written request after fleeing from Hungary in 1969. Dr Csango, now living in Norway, repeated the exercise after post-graduate studies in Britain in 1972 and made a half-hearted attempt again late last year as Swiss banks came under pressure over dormant Holocaust assets.

Despite Hungary being an ally of Nazi Germany, he was so shocked at the insensitive British handling of the case that he will try once more only if he receives some official support. "I have not given up, but purely psychologically it is taxing," he says. Based on notes kept by his grandparents, Dr Csango also tried for a quarter of a century to find there were family savings in western Switzerland and in France, without success.

The Swiss Bank Corporation (SBC) confirmed in a letter last year that Ferenc Csango, his father, held \$1,900 (£1,400) at its branch in London in 1939. Ferenc, a Jew, was deported by the Nazis in March 1942 to serve in a forced-labour battalion on the Russian front. He never returned and was probably killed during a Soviet counter-offensive near Gorky in January 1943. About a tenth of the 70,000 Hungarian Jews in the battalions survived.

Dr Csango, an only child, was born two months after his 33-year-old father was taken away. "I was baptised, otherwise I would not have survived," he says.

Ferenc's deposit was frozen by the Government during the war, classified as enemy property and confiscated from SBC. When Dr Csango approached the British authori-

ties in 1963, they admitted there had been an account. But an official at the then Board of Trade said he could not have the money.

There is no written correspondence on this meeting because Dr Csango did not want the Hungarian authorities to know about it while he and his mother still lived in Budapest.

In a reply to a written appeal in 1969, the Board of Trade's finance branch wrote that Dr Csango could be considered for an "ex-gratia" payment provided he supplied documentary proof of his father's fate and sworn declarations "by two other persons with first-hand knowledge of the facts alleged". He was told, however, that "forced labour is not normally regarded as a deprivation of liberty". The letter also hinted that his chances of receiving even a charitable payment were slim. "Consideration will be given to your application provided that funds for ex-gratia payments are still available when satisfactory evidence is received," it said. "I cannot see the difference between dying in a camp or on forced labour in Russia; they died of exhaustion or they were shot," Dr Csango says.

The Board of Trade's response was a mirror-image of some of the insensitive replies Holocaust victims received from the Swiss banks and authorities until recently.

When he tried again with SBC in London in August, the bank was the first to explain that in strict legal terms the account was seized and handed to the Hungarian Government under an agreement with Britain in 1963. Britain also recovered assets and property in Hungary. The bank repeated previous advice to contact the "Custodian for Enemy Property" at the Department of Trade.

Hungary became firmly Communist in 1948, and none of the heirs of Holocaust victims was aware of the right to reclaim money in Western countries. Dr Csango felt that in



Peter Csango feels that he owes it to his father, a Holocaust victim, to win back "confiscated" savings left in a Swiss bank's London branch before the war



Ferenc Csango, his wife Magda, and the letter sent by the Board of Trade in October 1969 rejecting Peter Csango's belated claim to his father's property

it would have been too dangerous to try, even if he had known, because it would have shown ties beyond the Iron Curtain.

SBC told Dr Csango that the bilateral agreements later fell into disarray "and the British Government agreed that in

cases of extreme hardship they would reimburse the enemy themselves".

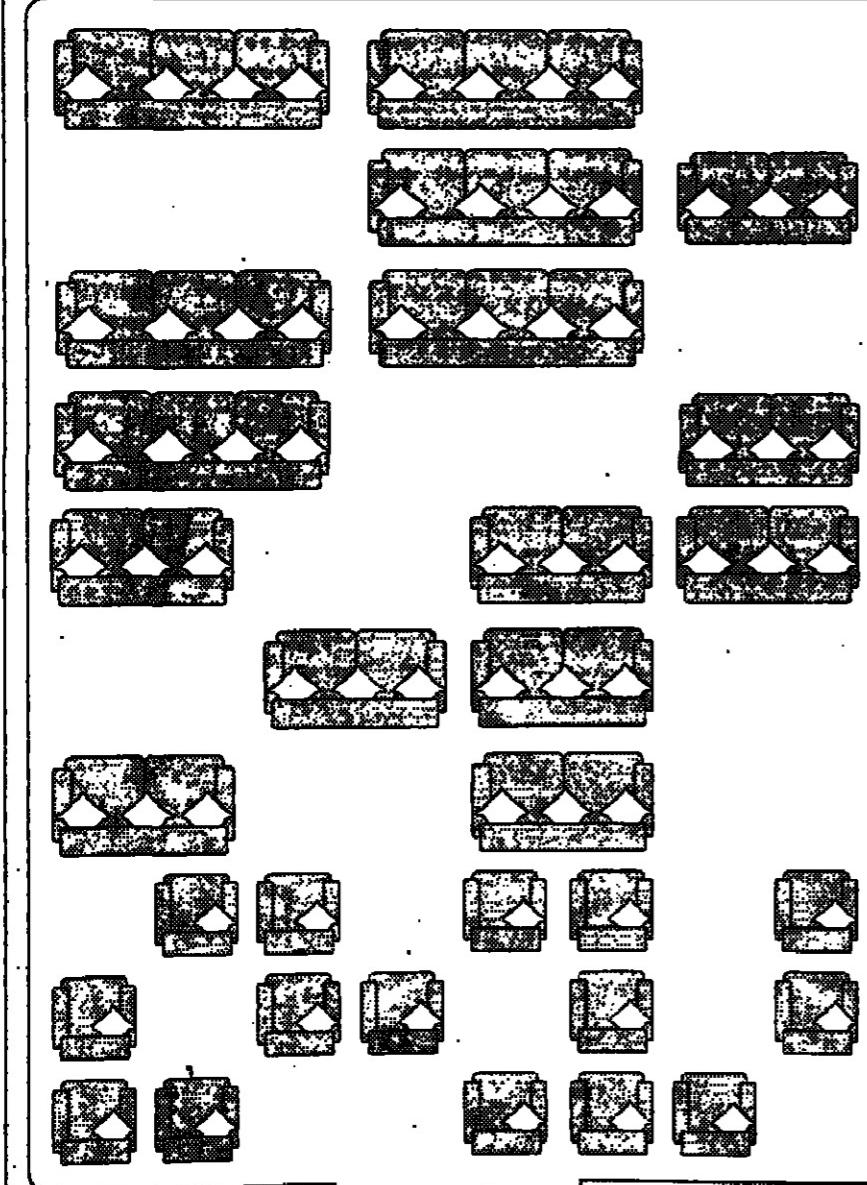
Dr Csango is 55 now, a Norwegian citizen with three children and a successful career as a microbiologist.

He objects to the agreements between Britain and

Hungary, which fail to examine if any of the private accounts handed over belonged to victims of persecution, saying: "This is morally wrong."

He adds: "I am not pursuing this for the money, I feel I owe it to my father."

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Pistol-packing Pretender will fight poll 'fraud'

FROM TOM WALKER IN TIRANA

LEKA ZOG has absolved himself of all responsibility for Thursday's bloody and bizarre shoot-out outside the Central Election Commission in the middle of Tirana, the capital of Albania. He claims that he is powerless to bring a halt to royalist rallies.

"It is not a question of demonstrations. This is the will of the Albanian people," the son of the country's last King said at his villa, the scene of much frantic diplomatic negotiation yesterday.

The American and British Ambassadors came and went with messages of peace, but the pistol-packing Leka vowed to continue his fight against what he says is a fraudulently elected Socialist Government blocking his natural right to the throne.

"The people are demonstrating all over the country. From south to north they are disgusted with the election results," Leka had swapped his military uniform for a safari suit, but still wore his calf-length black army boots in the middle of his sitting room. "I just happened to be wearing a uniform yesterday," he said.

The Albanian election process has turned this week from farce to tragedy and into dangerous stalemate. Yesterday an important element — results — were still missing and a second round of voting planned for tomorrow may be postponed. Leka's unique contribution of a town centre gunfight has become an all-consuming sideshow, with royalists and Democrats giving press conferences angrily

blaming the Socialists, and Bashkin Fino, the Prime Minister, pointing the finger at Leka's well-armed highland clan, which he says is being used by the hardliners of Sali Berisha, the President.

"I don't get used very easily.

I look after the interests of my people," retorted Leka, fishing a cigarette from his ever-present packer of Rothmans.

"We didn't come with the intention of starting war... If we were carrying out an armed action, believe me, our people are better equipped than the pistols you saw yesterday." His description of the Central Election Commission battle resembled a military debriefing.

"I told people to disperse and I was within three metres of my vehicle. Then there was a hail of fire on the square," he said. He rattled out the names of those in the Socialist-controlled police unit he held responsible for the shooting, which killed one man and wounded five others.

He says he will not call for another referendum on the restoration of the monarchy if this one fails, as most estimations suggest it will. In that case, he says, he will appeal to the constitutional court, many of whose members were seen waving to him during Thursday's debate.

□ Rome: Italy will begin its withdrawal of troops in the multinational security force from Albania on July 18 and expects to complete it by August 10. Massimo Brutti, a Defence Ministry under-secretary said. (Reuters)

Karadzic hardliners defy woman leader

BY TOM WALKER

HARDLINE members of the Republika Srpska parliament held a crisis session yesterday in defiance of an order disbanding it by Biljana Plavšić, the Bosnian Serb president. The move by Mrs Plavšić is directed at the clandestine might of Radovan Karadžić, the indicted war criminal.

Yesterday the collision course was set: her order for new elections on September 1 was to be ignored, and the hardline Serbs were preparing to dismiss Mrs Plavšić from office.

She was supported yesterday by 7,000 demonstrators who gathered outside her office in the northern town of Banja Luka and urged her not to give way. "I am sorry this happened, but crime must be stopped," Mrs Plavšić told them. "[War] victims did not fall for a state of thieves, but for a state of honest people."

Whoever wins this power struggle, it is unlikely that Republika Srpska can survive. If the Karadžić camp prevails, the eastern part of Republika Srpska and its mountain capital of Pale — the power base for Dr Karadžić — might try to join Serbia proper.

In the most optimistic scenario, Mrs Plavšić's western

half, including Banja Luka, the largest town, would then become a form of Serb canton. Bosnia-Herzegovina would consist of this new canton plus the Muslim-Croat Federation centred on Sarajevo. Bosnia as defined by the Dayton Peace Accord would be missing its eastern flank.

The final schism has been waiting to happen since February, when Mrs Plavšić placed an advertisement in Serbian papers calling for an investigation into the export-import companies controlled by Dr Karadžić and Momčilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's Muslim-Serb-Croat state presidency.

The power of Dr Karadžić's long and unseen hand became apparent there was no investigation.

The Karadžić-Krajisnik companies are called Centrex and Select-Imports, and bring in massive revenues from contraband, swelling the war chests of their owners. Police sources in Banja Luka have spoken of whole teams of customs police being replaced by Karadžić loyalists overnight, as planes laden with cigarettes and alcohol land at the town's military airport. Dr Karadžić controls a nationwide secret police

network, which leaves most Bosnian Serbs terrified of divulging the inner workings of their republic.

"The consequence of this is an enormous accumulation of wealth by a relatively small number of our population," Mrs Plavšić said in an extraordinary address from the Banja Luka studio of state television. "Do they think that the rest of the population will be their slaves?" Yesterday government officials closed the studio.

How far Mrs Plavšić's

brinkmanship can be

pushed will depend on the

support given her by the

international community.

America in particular has

invested heavily in aid and

quasi-political offices in

Banja Luka in recent months,

and Nato's Stabilisation

Force troops appear ready to

help keep the peace in the

town, the base for Britain's

biggest troop contingent.

□ The Hague: Slavko Dokmanović, 47, a Serb and former Mayor of Vukovar, pleaded not guilty at a UN

war crimes tribunal to

charges of involvement in the

abduction and murder of

hundreds of men from the

Croatian town's hospital in

November, 1991. (Reuters)



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Single-minded legal campaign against Juppé pays off for preppy young lawyer

Champion of the Left

AT 34, Arnaud Montebourg has a seat in the French National Assembly, a weekly column in one of the country's most influential magazines, a reputation as France's toughest left-wing lawyer and the unalloyed adoration of the Socialist Party.

The boy done good. Better, indeed, than might have been expected of one who left the Socialist Party in 1990 and who, 18 months ago, was still railing against the Left. "Party politics here is carried out with all the openness of a Vatican cabal. I'd rather have nothing to do with it," he told a British journalist in October 1995.

M Montebourg's change of heart and his sudden elevation to the summit of the Socialist Party were the direct result of his single-minded, aggressive and highly successful legal campaign against Alain Juppé, the ousted Gaullist Prime Minis-

PARIS FILE
by BEN MACINTYRE



ter. As the lawyer for the Association of Paris Taxpayers, M Montebourg accused the Prime Minister of misusing his former position as Deputy Mayor of Paris to obtain luxury, rent-reduced accommodation for himself and his family.

Despite his preppy appearance, complete with Armani-suites, Oxford brogues and gold-rimmed spectacles, the lawyer from an academic Dijon family has the instincts of a street fighter and his crusade against the Prime Minister was a bloody, bare-knuckled affair. The duel became so personal that M

Juppé, a man who seldom betrays emotion, was said to change colour and rant at the mention of M Montebourg's name.

Finally, after months of legal wrangling during which M Montebourg had indeed been guilty of conflict of interest, The franc plunged briefly. The Prime Minister was humiliated and forced to move out of his flat. Arnaud Montebourg ascended, immediately, into the Socialist pantheon.

There were many reasons why M Juppé and the Gaullists lost the elections, but M Montebourg and the seam of corruption he had exposed at the highest level of government, were among the most telling.

It was a sign of the Socialists' gratitude that M Montebourg soon found himself back in the bosom of the party and running for parliament. Lionel Jospin, the Socialist leader and now Prime Minister, went to M Montebourg's constituency in Bressans only days before the election to give his benediction to the

lawyer.

Jean Tiberi, the Paris Mayor and MP embroiled in the scandal, "studiously avoids me and clings to the wall," the lawyer reports happily, in the certain knowledge that it is not him, but his political and legal enemies who are most acutely in need of legal armour.

Arnaud Montebourg's street-fighter instincts, fuelled by his ferocious ambition,



have catapulted him into the highest reaches of the French Socialist Party.

Elegance is stressed

WHAT with high-level corruption and art thieves, Paris lawyers are feeling overworked and under pressure. But the designer Pierre Cardin has come up with a solution: anti-stress robes, the sartorial equivalent of Prozac. M Cardin's legal robes are "woven through with small particles of metal so that the cloth ensures the removal of static electricity.

Angry volcano seen as omen for change in Mexican elections

By TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN MEXICO CITY
AND DAVID ADAMS

MEXICO'S ruling party could face the most stunning sequence of defeats in its 68-year history tomorrow when elections take place for the entire lower house of Congress, a quarter of the Senate, six state governors, and the post of Mayor of Mexico City.

Meanwhile, the Popocatépetl volcano rumbles menacingly 40 miles

from here. It last erupted in 1925, during the revolution which ended with the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) taking power. Mexicans see its discontent as an omen of important change.

The PRI, which has excluded all other parties from power since it first took a grip of the country in 1929, is bracing itself. Genuine electoral reforms introduced by President Zedillo, as well as the presence of a myriad of foreign observers, have ensured that the

polls will be the fairest ever in the country's fraud-scarred history. Importantly, they could also mark the belated coming of age in Mexico of a multi-party democracy.

The most substantial gains are expected to be made by the left-wing opposition Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), led by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas. Named after the last Aztec ruler to resist the Spanish conquistadores, he is the son of Lázaro Cárdenas, arguably the most popular President Mexico has

ever had. Señor Cárdenas is standing for the post of Mexico City's Mayor. His mestizo physiognomy mirrors that of many Mexicans, and he is profoundly popular with the working classes. It is now universally acknowledged that he was robbed of the presidency in the 1988 elections, when the Government's computers "collapsed" while he was leading in the electoral count. When the computers restarted, the PRI's hand-picked candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, had won.

All Mexico's eyes are on the mayoral race. There has never been an election for the post before, and the PRI's candidate, Alfredo del Mazo, is in danger of drowning in a sea of votes for Señor Cárdenas. If Señor Cárdenas wins — which is regarded as a foregone conclusion — he is sure to use the city hall as a staging post for the presidential elections in 2000. If he does the Mayor's job well, he will be the favourite to rule Mexico in the new millennium. Yet his ascent, and that

of his party, has caused concern in Washington. He is a critic of Nafta, the free-trade agreement that has unified the markets of Mexico, Canada and the United States.

With the PRI expected to take up

to 33 per cent of the vote, the most likely outcome of the election is the first Mexican hung parliament this century. Señor Cárdenas's PRD is

expected to win about 23 per cent of the vote, with about 25 per cent

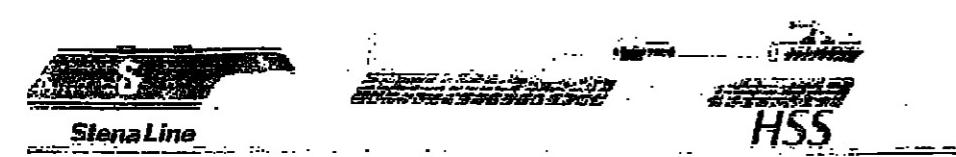
going to the conservative National Action Party (PAN).



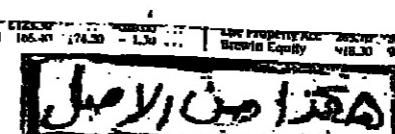
Zedillo: introduced electoral reforms

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OPINION
Jolly Rogers: should another big lottery award go to new Labour's favourite architect?



THEATRE
Not quite the best of all possible worlds: Voltaire's *Candide* is staged at the Gate

THE ARTS



GOING OUT
From the British debut of the spectacular new touring show by Michael Jackson ...



GOING OUT
... to the Kirov Ballet's London season: the week's top events are listed today in *The Times* Directory

Is the South Bank a roof too far?

How swiftly the sweet taste of political victory turns acrid when the hot potatoes start rolling in! Two months ago, Chris Smith was a hero. Cultured, bright, sensitive in all the right spots, he seemed the perfect man to be Tony Blair's first arts *Obergruppenfuehrer*.

What a difference nine weeks makes. No other minister has endured more dispiriting humiliations than nice Mr Smith from the Department of National Heritage. Indeed, the DNH is again living up to its disgraceful nickname: the Dump for No-Hoppers.

Consider the decline in his fortunes. With his feet barely under the mahogany, he was all but hoodwinked into approving the transfer of Mary Allen from the Arts Council to its biggest client, the Royal Opera House, without even the pretence of a job interview. The Labour Party has had 18 years to think about how to sort out the mess at Covent Garden. Yet within 18 days of taking power, its minister is unwittingly compromised by a typical Covent Garden shuck-up. First black mark.

Then he decided to call in Camelot's bosses' rant about how much they were making from the National Lottery, and demand that they donate their bonuses to charity. Oh dear. Theodore Roosevelt advised politicians to speak softly and carry a big stick. Nice Mr Smith spoke *fortissimo* and wagged a tinchy twig. He had to climb down. Cashalot's profitable arrangements remain as they were. Second black mark.

Yet the biggest humiliation was still to come. The Prime Minister finally decided that the Millennium Dome could be built, and that Greenwich would have its preposterous \$800 million party on the stroke of Two-Triple-O. So to whom does he turn to ensure that the planning is efficient and imaginative? Not his trusty Heritage Secretary. No, nice Mr Smith is elbowed into the wings. Instead, out steps Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio. Mr Smith, being a nice chap, probably doesn't regard this as an snub. Believe me, Chrisiss, it is.

What then, does the future hold for our nice Mr Smith? Regrettably, more bad news. Yet another scorching potato



RICHARD MORRISON

is splodging straight into his lap. After more than a year of fraught secret meetings the Arts Council is about to announce whether the South Bank Centre (the Festival Hall and its gaudily concrete satellites) is to get an enormous lottery handout — it could be bigger than Covent Garden's — to pay for a mega-course of cosmetic surgery. This would chiefly involve covering up the despised Queen Elizabeth Hall and Hayward Gallery with a big glass roof, thus creating lots of bistro-friendly indoor piazzas in which trendy Londoners can feed and frolic.

Well, no sane person would oppose wrapping up the Hayward Gallery, unless the alternative is complete demolition. Unfortunately for nice Mr Smith, however, the architect of the new South Bank roof is none other than our old friend, the apply named Lord Rogers of Riverside. Which means that all manner of delicate liaisons must be considered.

It will be recalled, for instance, that Sir Richard Rogers (as he was then) was deputy chairman of the Arts Council at the very time (March 1995) when the council decided to give the South Bank Centre £980,000 for a "feasibility study" into the redevelopment scheme devised by ... R. Rogers. And he was still deputy chairman in July 1996 when the council examined this study and decided that it was so far from being feasible that a further £1.2 million needed to be spent drawing up new plans.

Of course, Rogers very properly left

the room" when the council discussed the South Bank. But many eyebrows were raised at such a close relationship between givers and receivers of lottery largesse. Good grief, imagine the scandal if the very people on the Arts Council who gave £75 million to the Royal Opera House suddenly found themselves spending the money at Covent Garden!

Since then, however, the Rogers Situation has become even more complicated. The architect has been created a working Labour peer. He and his restauranteuse wife Ruthie are dear friends of Tony and Cherie. The Millennium Dome approved by Mr Blair last month is a Rogers design.

How much of its gigantic budget will go to Lord Rogers' company is a matter for speculation. But when the new millennium supremo, Mr Mandelson, actually starts parroting Lord Rogers' famous phrase about constructing a "string of pearls" along the Thames (the "pearls", of course, often being Lord Rogers' own projects, from Greenwich to his new £80 million penthouses at Battersea), you have to wonder, again, whether there should be such a warm and loving relationship between those who distribute state patronage and those who benefit so handsomely from it.

So how does nice Mr Smith handle all this? The answer is, he's damned either way. The South Bank does need its facelift; it's the most conspicuous pile of creepy-crawly passageways in central London, and a real turn-off to lone concertgoers late at night. Equally, Mr Smith — shaken and scarred by his Covent Garden experience — will be all too aware that "jobs for the cronies" mud will fly if Lord Rogers gets another plump lottery commission.

Gosh, I wouldn't like to be in nice Mr Smith's shoes. Observing him trying to defuse this booby-trap will surely be the most diverting sideshow of the summer. They should stage it on Cromer Pier. Cameron Mackintosh could produce it. Mark McCormack could sell tickets — and Mr Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio, could step in to "save the day" after watching his colleague slowly twist in the wind.

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale sees *Candide* transcend its adaptation

Voltaire still in charge

Murray Gold, the author of this laudable if unremarkable adaptation of Voltaire (at the Gate, W1), clearly has it in for a chap called Jolyon. At any rate, he has dedicated the play to someone or that name: "in the hope that he has found the best of all possible worlds". But that is the piffle of Pangloss's description of a planet where nature is brutal and most of the people are worse. To invite poor old Jolyon to settle in such a place is a bit like sending him a wish-you-were-here card from the Siberian Gulag.

On second thoughts, maybe the invitation is less malevolent than it might have been. Pangloss's world does not emerge from David Farr's production looking and feeling quite as vicious as it does from Voltaire's novel. The mood is humorous, which it should be,

but also light, which it shouldn't. As a contribution to "a select season of European satire" — the Gate's tag for its current batch of work — it could surely be harder, tougher, more sardonic.

More imaginative, too — or what is the point of bringing *Candide* to the stage, instead of encouraging the public to read or reread it? The story comes in fits, punctuated by blackouts. Laura Hopkins's set is a green-grey concrete wall in front of which a sort of overblown mosquito net sometimes materializes. Virtually the only props are

canoes in the Amazonian rapids and a gondola in Venice, and adds a few lines of his own. I don't recall a king saying he wanted to start a bloody war in the name of a city that would "probably be razed to the ground" or Candide telling Pangloss that "life has lost its colour — I swim in an eternal sea of beige". But then what's wrong with introducing the odd modern note into a piece that still has plenty of upness in a decade where corruption and callow optimism, pain, sorrow and human resilience continue to cohabit?

Gold transposes narrative to dialogue efficiently enough, although sometimes at the cost of Voltaire's *faux-naif* tone, and adds a few lines of his own. I don't recall a king

saying he wanted to start a bloody war in the name of a city that would "probably be razed to the ground" or Candide telling Pangloss that "life has lost its colour — I swim in an eternal sea of beige".

Still, Justin Salinger's Candide, a nerdish wail with a big, daffy grin, makes pretty well all the physical and moral journeys Voltaire wanted. He is fashed close to death by the Bulgarian military, shipwrecked, almost burnt as a heretic, pursued as a fugitive across

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Mars is the last, best hope for America.

Pathfinder proves the Red Planet is today's Wild West, says Tim Hames

Americans are extraordinary people. Few others would send a probe through 300 million miles of space primarily to discover themselves. Whatever the success or failure of the *Pathfinder* mission, NASA will be back. Although funding is much tighter than in the glory days of the 1960s, the widely predicted elimination of the US space programme has failed to materialise. Nor is there much chance that it will.

Meanwhile Russian efforts, symbolised by the embarrassing break-up of the Mir space station this week, continue to collapse. It is certainly true that the general future of space exploration depends upon co-operation between the two former superpower rivals. However, that point masks an important distinction. If the two nations do not collaborate, an American programme of some significance will continue, albeit in a curtailed form. The future for the Russian venture is far less certain.

The quest to explore space has a different and more powerful meaning for Americans. Spectacular scientific discoveries and raw commercial advantage are patently useful but not ultimately essential. The quest can be justified as an end in itself, even at times of tight budget constraints.

Not that NASA believes in taking any chances. The agency has long been among the most politically sophisticated pressure groups in Washington.

When the Berlin Wall fell, NASA feared for its future

The choice of Independence Day for the *Pathfinder* touchdown was more than a mere coincidence of the calendar. The announcement last summer that microchips had been found in a meteorite, suspected to have originated on Mars, was also rather fortuitous in its timing. The rock itself had been in NASA's possession for a decade. The dramatic press statement came in the middle of the American political convention season. Politicians from all parties, confronted with a fascinated electorate, scrambled to pledge their support for further space expenditure.

One year ago the blockbuster film *Independence Day* was released. Serious space types pretended to be horrified at the portrayal of aliens as aggressors. Secretly they were delighted at the publicity. When *Apollo 13* blessed American cinemas a year earlier, NASA shamelessly promoted it. In return, the film's stars testified for the space programme in Congress. Even the 50th anniversary of the Roswell "UFO crash-landing" incident, while officially ridiculed, did not want for experts willing to discuss the circumstances under which other life forms might be identified. If the UFO phenomenon had not been invented by others, NASA would have found a method of its own.

Although the present probe was planned before last summer's sensational announcement, NASA has exploited the increased interest. The agency has stressed the "cheap and cheerful" nature of this mission. A snip to the American public at £90 million — rather less than the takings of *Independence Day* after its first two weeks at the box office. Another nine flights to the Red Planet are planned over the next eight years, culminating in a craft that will collect rocks from the surface and return them to Earth. The whole enterprise will cost less than a single *Apollo* expedition to the Moon.

This parsimony is prudent but not essential. When the Berlin Wall fell, NASA feared that its future would be caught in the Red Planet. Many American eyes are on Mars, in Madrid next week what is formally known as Nato expansion, will prove the smokescreen for Nato's emasculation. Americans a restless breed, will need a new challenge for the next century.

Space provides that focus and NASA need not fear for its future. In the space of 200 years, American energies will have shifted from Red Indians to the Red Army and now the Red Planet.

Means may alter but the ends remain the same. That is as true as it was 221 years ago, when Thomas Jefferson issued the Declaration of Independence. John Kennedy once described the United States as "the last, best hope for mankind on Earth". That hope will continue to be placed and pursued in the heavens.

Saving face

STEVEN SPIELBERG must be having second thoughts about coming to Britain to shoot his latest film, *Saving Private Ryan*, a wartime drama starring Tom Hanks.

In Herefordshire, where workers are building a French town for the film, Spielberg is having to deal

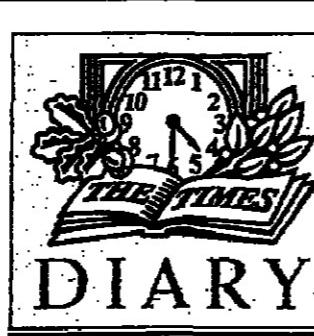


"You've got an advanced case of brassneck, Mr Hamilton"

with a truculent BECTU, the Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union. Meanwhile in Ireland, two of his extras drafted in from the Irish Army reservists landed in hospital after they became visible under the extras' costumes.

BECTU is complaining that Spielberg's company is underpaying workers building the replica French town, and that the company is refusing to hold pay negotiations. The union is now holding a ballot on whether to strike.

Spielberg must be wishing they showed more of the sang froid of the Irish. "Our two chaps were in and out of the ocean all day," said Commandant Declan Carbury, the Reserves' press officer. "They're back at work already."



• Comforting news for the many anarchic Tories feeling left out by the rise of Hague, the management consultant. They could soon have their own magazine. Hywel Williams, John Redwood's former henchman, is putting out feelers about setting up a new magazine along the lines of the National Review run by William F. Buckley in America. All those who deserted from Redwood to Hague in the last round of the Tory leadership election should beware.

Heil Neil

AS a young Tory, Neil Hamilton, the former MP for Tatton, displayed a provocative interest in the

politically outré by accepting the hospitality of the Italian MSI party, which boasted a Mussolini or two in its ranks. In the evidence he gave to Sir Gordon Downey, whose report came out on Thursday, he showed that his interest in the great dictators has waned.

On page 183, paragraph 36 of the report, he attacks Mohamed Al Fayed, accusing him of the tactical use of the big lie. Hitler explained the psychology of this with compelling clarity in *Mein Kampf*, Hamilton told Downey, before launching into an extended quote from the Führer's work: "In the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; the broad masses of a nation ... more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters, but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods."

He ends his quote from Hitler: "The grossly impudent lie always leaves traces, even after it has been nailed down."

Capital move

BREAKING with her family's musical tradition is Imogen Lloyd

Webber, the daughter of Lord Lloyd-Webber, who has just started life as a journalist. She is working on the Londoner's Diary, the gossip column in the London Evening Standard.

She has been there for two weeks now, and by all accounts is proving rather good and unsqueamish about using her father's high-level contacts book. When approached about his new recruit yesterday, however, the Londoner was terse:



Gossip: Imogen Lloyd Webber

"We're terribly sorry, Imogen is far too busy to talk to you."

• Incessant rain was the just one of the problems facing Sir Geoffrey Cass, the president of the Lawn Tennis Association, at Wimbledon this week. As he pondered the scheduling hell, the exit of Henman and the possibility of his tournament heading into a third week, it was the last thing he needed to climb into his car and reverse it straight into the car belonging to his friend, the former LTA president John Robbins.

New leaf

EXPECT no more than a faint tremble of the upper lip next month when Geoffrey Bailey resigns his post as keeper of the Royal Family's book accounts after 35 years of service. Bailey, who worked for 23 years at Hatchards in Piccadilly before moving to Waterstones in Harrods, is moving to Bedford Street in Covent Garden, where he will run Crime in Store, a new bookshop owned by a syndicate of crime novelists led by Francis Fyfield, Colin Dexter and Michael Walters.

William Hill. For the good of racing, I hope the bid will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission. But in some areas an aggregation of William Hill and Coral shops will create a monopoly, and our team will work on offers to buy shops which Coral has to dispose of. Yet, to the concern of Tote staff, John Heaton's contract runs out in November, awaiting the wishes of my successor.

I think it reasonable to say that, having brought the Tote from insolvency to a business worth £400 million, I am in a good position to know the qualities required by my successor. I have met Jack Straw officially only once. He was charming but curiously akin to Michael Howard in his addiction to Douglas Jay's famous phrase, "the gentleman in Whitehall knows best". New Labour, like old Labour, worryingly thinks that it knows how to run businesses. I thought Margaret Thatcher had destroyed that delusion, but it appears not. It is difficult to build up a thriving business. It is easy for a duff chairman to wreck it. I would hate to see agreeable Jack Straw look naive and gullible in his selection of my successor.

Lord Wyatt has been chairman of the Horse Race Totalisator Board since 1976.

As the Home Secretary dithers over his successor, Woodrow Wyatt fears for the future of racing

Will Whitehall wreck the Tote?

The chairmanship of the Tote is of much importance to racing. The Tote Board has one objective: to maximise its profits, which it gives to racing.

Now that Ladbrokes has joined Tote Direct, which we founded with Bass, the owners of Coral bookmakers, the profits to the Tote will mount considerably. Add to that the right we won to bet on the outcome of the Irish lottery and on anything that ordinary bookmakers can bet on, and within a few years the Tote's profits are set fair to be about £25 million a year.

For the year ending March 31, we made record profits. They would have been £1 million higher if Michael Howard had not refused us permission to bet on Irish lottery numbers until Christmas. We are grateful for the all-party support which forced this through. The Levy Board, under the wise guidance of Sir John Sparrow, competently distributes the hypothecated tax, or levy, on horse racing betting. One day this may end, and the Tote's contribution to racing will be even more vital. When Lord Whitelaw was Home Secretary we agreed not to let the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, know about this hypothecated tax for fear she would blow it up.

Unfortunately, without telling us, the Home Office decided to

register the Tote as a Non-Departmental Public Body, making it unique on the 1,227-strong list of such bodies in that it has never had a ha'penny from the Government; rather, it has paid large sums in betting duty and corporation tax. So Nolan rules had to be applied to finding my successor. Last July Michael Howard wrote to me, saying that he would be very happy to consider the claims of anyone who had my support, an undertaking which has since been discarded. He also said he wanted the new chairman to be on the board in early 1997, so that I could induct him into the business before my intended retirement on April 30. Since then I have been twice asked to accept an extension to my chairman, first until June 30 and now until July 31. I agreed because I could not leave the Tote rudderless with so many delicate commercial decisions to be taken.

TODAY the Tote is very big business, with the fastest and most efficient tote (pari-mutuel) in the world. We have been forced to be, to parry intense competition from bookmakers who have stayed paramount in the

affections of punters since they first took bets at races started by Charles II at Newmarket. There is no comprehension at the Home Office, or among the panel which interviewed the applicants, of the nature of the Tote business. Most likely was the blind interviewing the remaining candidates I think the most likely to be capable of carrying forward the highly successful policies of the board, lest he be disqualified. The Tote was a shambles 20 years ago when I reluctantly took on the chairmanship on the insistence of Roy Jenkins, then Labour Home Secretary, because he knew I was interested in racing.

We have a remarkable team at the top, with John Heaton as chief executive and Tom Phillips as financial director. These two have laboured skilfully on the documentation for the Ladbrokes entry into Tote Direct. They will be at it again if Bass, our original partner in Tote Direct, succeeds in its offer to buy

opposes a monopoly reference, or a barrister MP opposes court audience for solicitors, or a doctor MP waves shrouds on behalf of the NHS, nobody believes that they are dispassionate. Farmer MPs are flagrant lobbyists for their financial interests. No lobbyist need pay them to "put down questions". A thumping cheque from the Ministry of Agriculture works the necessary magic.

THE principal charge against Messrs Hamilton and Smith is not that they took money but that they concealed the fact from colleagues. That is indeed unethical and now against the rules. But let us keep this in proportion.

Did anybody seriously believe that the Al Fayed "taxi rank" MPs were asking questions about Mr Al Fayed out of the goodness of their hearts? Who was fooled, and to what public damage? You might as well as ask whether a financial journalist who plugs a share, a fashion writer who plugs a dress, or a motoring columnist who plugs a car has never taken so much as a Savoy lunch for free. Journalists may not be "running the country", but nor was Mr Hamilton. We are fellow travellers along this ethical highway. We all sit at the same inn.

ONLY MPs and journalists besotted by the self-importance of the House of Commons could respond to the revelations about cash-for-questions with the portentousness shown this week. Parliament may be constitutionally important as the electoral college of the government of the day. Its role in running the country, and therefore its value to the purveyors of corruption, is vastly overrated. The media loves Parliament, because it is "theatre". But that is form, not substance.

While journalists are poring over Ritz hotel bills, I have no doubt that far greater sins are lying dormant in the procurement departments of Whitehall and local government.

Sir Gordon Downey himself was government auditor for six years in the 1980s. I cannot believe he never met anything as awful as Mr Hamilton's £25,000, to merit six months and 900 censorious pages. I wonder what horrors in local government and the NHS are daily ignored by the Audit Commission as being too tedious to investigate. Perhaps these guardians of public morality might now turn their gaze on defence purchasing, drugs licensing, government property disposal, privatisation consultancy.

Or perhaps not. They are boring subjects. The Hamilton affair is exhilarating because it concerns the self-esteem of the British political class. It has little to do with the better government of Britain.

Simon Jenkins

Hamilton may be a "serial liar". The *Guardian* is surely a serial glotter.

In the sledgehammer-anti-tut department, Sir Gordon Downey's 900 pages ranks with the Scott report on arms-to-Iraq. The effort is wholly disproportionate to the public evil. Mr Hamilton and Mr Smith were backbenchers. Anyone who believes such men are running the country is naive, as Mr Al

Fayed clearly was. For Sir Gordon Downey to go to such lengths to prove that Mr Hamilton was a lobbyist's lackey is absurd. The *Guardian* goes overboard with self-congratulation, treating the Downey report at the same length as if it did Gordon Brown's Budget. Mr Hamilton was yesterday pictured nine times in that paper, which also pictured itself five times and its former Editor, Peter Preston, twice.

MPs have always put down questions for constituents, employers, lobbyists, friends, Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all. They are by their nature "vested interests".

I recall no outcry, no mind-numbing report, on Richard Branson's substantial accusations against British Airways for its Commons lobbying in the days of BA's then chairman, Lord King of Warrnaby. In the mid-1980s, many of the MPs who were defending BA's commercial interests were said to be receiving benefits worth thousands of pounds, with precious few declaring them. Lloyd's insurance market escaped regulation as a result of lobbying by MPs with Lloyd's interests — a rare instance of such pressure working.

Al Fayed may well take money to push a cause. There is nothing wrong in that. Most who have other careers — which is a good thing — will push that interest shamelessly. When a banker MP

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 3: The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel, this afternoon and evening visited the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards at Ballykelly, Northern Ireland.

His Royal Highness was received on arrival at Royal Air Force Aldergrove by Mr Adam Ingram MP (Minister of State for Northern Ireland).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 4: The Duke of Edinburgh, Colonel, this morning continued a visit to the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards at Ballykelly, Northern Ireland.

His Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, Army Cadet Force, this afternoon visited the Combined Cadet Force Central Camp at Culverhouse, Porthcawl, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross (Sir David Montgomery), Bt.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 4: The Princess Royal, Patron, the National Autistic Society, this morning opened the Wessex Autistic Society's Housing Development at 15-18 Barnes Lane, Bournemouth.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Home Farm Trust, this afternoon visited the Riverdell Scheme at Chudleigh, Newton Abbot, and

was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Devon (Lieutenant-Colonel the Earl of Morley).

The Princess Royal, President, the Rural Housing Trust, later visited Vicarage Court and opened the John Arrott Playground, Timberscombe, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset (Colonel Sir John Wills, Bt).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 4: The Prince of Wales this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from the Philippines.

Mr Stephen Lampert, Lieutenant Commander John Lawrence RN and Miss Sandy Henney were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 4: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this afternoon at a Garden Party given at St Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, Middlesex, for teachers from the Commonwealth, the United States of America and Europe.

ROYAL HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 4: The Duke of Kent, President, the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, this afternoon attended the Wimbledon Championships, London SW19.

Royal engagements

TODAY: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, will visit the 3rd (Volunteer) Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment, (The Prince of Wales's) at Castle Martin Training Centre, Dyfed, at 10.00.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will attend the ladies' finals of the Wimbledon Championships at 12.30.

TOMORROW: The Duke of Kent will attend the men's finals of the Wimbledon Championships at 12.30 and the Duchess of Kent will attend at 1.30. Princess Alexandra will attend the men's finals at 12.30.

Royal Automobile Club

Prince Michael of Kent, President of the Royal Automobile Club, read the service of thanksgiving of thanks giving held on July 2 in Westminster Abbey, to mark the centenary of the organisation. The Duke of Westminster officiated. Mr Jeffrey Rose, Chairman, Mr Ian Nicholls, patron of the year, and staff member Ms Reginalda Wijesekere gave readings. Canon Roger Taylor preached the sermon. A specially commissioned fanfare 'The Knights of the Road' was played by the Band of the Parachute Regiment, conducted by Captain Ian McIlroy, after the service. Over 1,200 past and present staff attended the service.

Godfrey B.W. Kent

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Godfrey Bladon-Weston, Kent, TD, will be held in St Nicholas's Church, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, on Friday, July 11, 1997, at 3.00pm.

Luncheons

Manchester Consular Association
The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester and Mrs Timmins were received by Consul Robert Burnet-Hughes, president, and Mrs Burnet-Hughes at the annual summer luncheon of the Manchester Consular Association held yesterday at the Bridge Hotel, Presbury.

Service dinner

The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) Members of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) held their annual dinner at the Army and Navy Club, London, last night. Brigadier the Duke of Wellington, Colonel in Chief of the Regiment, presided. Guests included General Sir Roger Wheeler, Chief of the General Staff, and Lieutenant General S.C. Grant, Commandant RCDs. Also in attendance were Brigadier W.R. Mundell, Colonel of the Regiment, and former Colonels, General Sir Charles Huxtable and Major General D.E. Isles.

Service luncheon

Father-and-Son Ballagh Club.

Colonel J.H. Colwell, Honorary President of the Father-and-Son Ballagh Club for former officers of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and their ladies held yesterday at the Cavalry and Guards Club.

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Births

BRIDGEND - On 22nd June, in Penrhyn, Gwynedd, a son, Steven, 609 gms. Mother, Sebastianne Francis, a brother, for Alexander, Tom, Oliver, and a sister, Sophie.

BUXON - On July 2nd 1997, to Caroline and Danny, a son, Lewis Edward Hugo, a son, for Sidney and Claudia.

BROADHEAD - On 24th June, to Melanie and Alastair, a son, Toby Alexander, a brother, Christopher.

CLARKE - On 2nd July 1997, to Linda (née Johnson) and Edward, a daughter, Emily.

DAVIES - On June 10th, to Elizabeth Main and Mark Davies of Stamford, Lincoln, a son, Thomas Main, a brother, for Mark and Elizabeth.

DUNNE - On June 14th at The Portland Hospital, to David and Penny, a son, Aedan, a brother for George.

HEDDERLEY - On July 1st at St Vincents Hospital, to Victoria (née Letham) and Mark, a daughter, Lucy Ann.

HOBSON - On June 25th, to Carol and Dennis, a son, Lewis Edward Hugo, a son, for Sidney and Claudia.

GREEN - On 28th June to Mike and Karen, a son, a daughter, for the late Philip and Linda Green. A beautiful daughter. Granddaughter for The late Philip and Linda Green of Wight and Nancy Hean.

JUDD - On 26th June at home, to Carol and Jonathan, a son, Oliver Joseph.

WALKER - On 2nd July, to Alan Barred, a son, Ben, a daughter, for Jonathan and Ben.

WILLIAMS - On 30th June, aged 82, Private funeral, no flowers.

DEATHS

BARNES - Mrs M. widow of Alfred, of Hatfield, Herts, died on 30th June, aged 82. Private funeral, no flowers.

BARRETT - Mrs E. Barrett, of Hatfield, Herts, died on Wednesday 9th July at 2.30pm. Family flowers only.

BLAKE - Mrs E. Blake-Roberts, of Hatfield, Herts, died on Wednesday 9th July at 1.15pm. Private funeral, no flowers.

COOPER - Mrs M. Cooper, of Hatfield, Herts, died on Wednesday 9th July at 1.15pm. Private funeral, no flowers.

FRASER - Mrs M. Fraser, of Hatfield, Herts, died on Wednesday 9th July at 1.15pm. Private funeral, no flowers.

GIBBONS - Mrs E. Gibbons, of Hatfield, Herts, died on Wednesday 9th July at 1.15pm. Private funeral, no flowers.

HARRIS - Mrs M. Harris, of Hatfield, Herts, died on Wednesday 9th July at 1.15pm. Private funeral, no flowers.

HOLMES - Mrs M. Holmes, of Hatfield, Herts, died on Wednesday 9th July at 1.15pm. Private funeral, no flowers.

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NEWS

Broadcast from the red planet

Mars Pathfinder last night plunged through the Martian atmosphere, man's first visitor to the surface of the red planet for more than 20 years. Just after 6pm Flight Director Rob Manning announced to cheering scientists at mission control in Pasadena that the spacecraft had landed after a flight of 309 million miles and was broadcasting a signal. "We're down," a delighted Manning shouted out..... Pages 1, 5, 20

Bill of Rights by end of next year

A Bill of Rights will be in place by the end of next year, enabling people to seek justice in British rather than European courts for breaches of human rights. A White Paper will be published in the autumn and a Bill soon after..... Page 1

Patient disarmed

A woman police officer disarmed an HIV-positive patient who went berserk and threatened to stab hospital staff with a syringe contaminated with his blood..... Page 1

Bird of pray

Paula, the eagle owl which is devouring pigeons at St Paul's Cathedral, is at the centre of a debate about capturing birds..... Page 15

Observatory closes

The Royal Greenwich Observatory at Cambridge is closing with the loss of 100 jobs. Its work will be transferred to Edinburgh..... Page 5

Kiss of peace

The Methodist Church is worried about sexual harassment during the "peace", when worshippers are urged to hug and kiss..... Page 10

Not enough rain

Despite the wettest June since 1860, large areas of southern and eastern England face summer water shortages in 1998..... Page 18

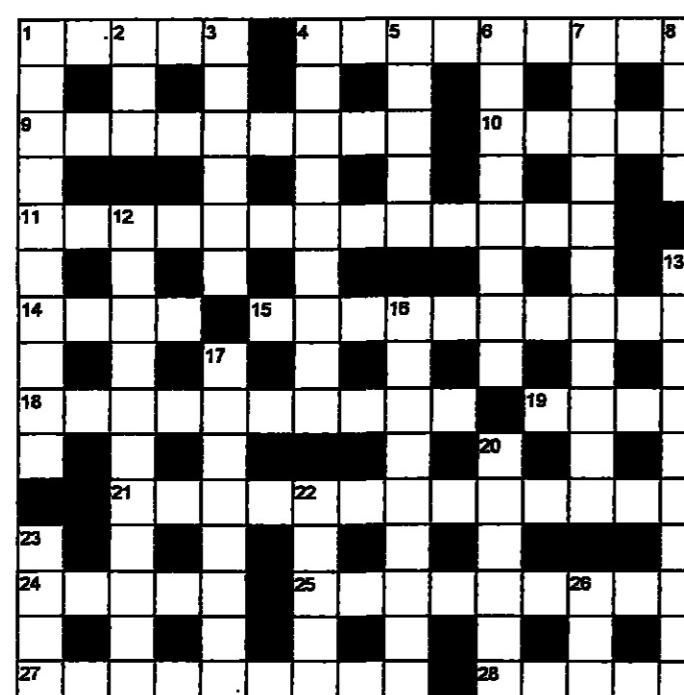
The Crowborough goldmine mystery

Crowborough in East Sussex will welcome 25,000 visitors this weekend as it cashes in on its connections with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, who lived there for 23 years. There will be local Holmes wine, Sherlock sausage and a Hound of the Baskervilles dog show..... Pages 1, 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,524

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....



ACROSS

- Musician with piano in prom (5).
- Article in magazine that's potentially disastrous (6,3).
- Battle against tribunal (9).
- Express disapproval through giving the bird (5).
- One entitled to define himself as a harmless drudge (4).
- Guy's book abridged (4).
- Not being present for the Latin class (2,8).
- Where people learn one piece of poetry, mostly in harmony (10).
- Story-teller's one article that's side-splitting (4).
- Shortfall in electricity supply that could disrupt family communications (10,3).
- Standard of fitness it's good to idolise? (5).
- Crewmen put down cards (5,4).
- English reader, a learner in a sort of college (9).
- Continue to shake in vehicle (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,518

Solution to Puzzle No 20,518

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D H E D D L B H
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G A T H E R P R E G N A N T
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W I N D F A I L L L U L L
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D N E P T N L
M A R C F R E E B O O T E R
I A U R E N A
R E Y N O L D S D U E N N A

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: I R Hall, Farnham, Surrey; J H Hargreaves, New Milton, Hampshire; A Richens, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire; A Wild, Bournemouth, Dorset; I Stratton, Warminster, Wiltshire.

NATURE NOTES



Fig. 1 Lying toad



Giant Toad (*Hamiltonius corruptus*)

A species once protected by the authorities, this clammy creature crawls out from under stones to seek exposure. The female is dominant.

OPINION

Emine and fox: If the Tories become identified as the party of the fatcat, foxhunter and fifth Viscount Frenchingham they will find their support restricted to the Cayman Islands, the Quorn and Debrer's..... Page 21

Lady C's husband: An eighth of Sir Terence's riches seems a small price to pay for 33 years of cooking, caring and ego-stroking..... Page 21

LETTERS

Amsterdam treaty: Orange marches: writing to *The Times*; BA dispute..... Page 21

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Of all the hypocritical deposits to fall from the rear end of the Palace of Westminster, few equal the Downey report..... Page 20

Tim James: Americans are extraordinary people. Few others would send a space probe 300 million miles to find themselves..... Page 20

OBITUARIES

The Rev Michael Randolph, journalist and priest; Marjorie Linklater, environment campaigner; George Harrison Marks, film director and variety producer..... Page 23

BUSINESS

Economy: City fears grew that the consumer spending boom would accelerate after it emerged that nearly a quarter of Woolwich Building Society members have decided to sell their free shares immediately..... Page 25

Casino: The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is expected to approve London Clubs International's £190 million bid for the rival Capital Corporation..... Page 25

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 18.9 to 4812.8. Sterling rose to 104.0 after rising to \$1.6875 and DM2.9616..... Page 28

Crickets: Shane Warne took five wickets to leave England struggling at 161 for eight in the third Test; 74 runs behind Australia..... Page 48

Tennis: Pete Sampras, the No 1 seed, reached the men's singles final at Wimbledon with a 6-2, 6-1, 7-6 victory over Todd Woodbridge..... Page 48

Golf: Lee Westwood led by two strokes after the second round of the Irish Open at Druids Glen..... Page 47

Rugby union: The British Isles are keen to make a clean sweep of the series against South Africa..... Page 42

Cash question: The South Bank does need its £170 million, facelift. Richard Morrison writes. But the Heritage Secretary knows jobs for the cronies' mud will fly if Lord Rogers is given another plum lottery commission..... Page 19

Candidate at the Gate: Benedict Nightingale enjoys a lively update of Voltaire's *Candidate at the Gate* in west London..... Page 19

TV: *EastEnders*: Welcome to the megaplex..... Page 7

Mood food: Welcome to the megaplex..... Page 7

SECTION MAGAZINE

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Top cricketers..... Page 21

Summer wines..... Page 46

Jean Morris..... Page 27

Weekend

Cool capital: Is London the hippest city?..... Page 1

Property

Prep school for sale..... Page 7, 8

Travel: Paris; South Africa; Hungary..... Pages 15-20

TO 15

Dinner: We preview *The Lost World*..... Page 6

Networking: How to spin your own web..... Page 10

Entertainment: *Die Hard With a Vengeance*..... Page 1

Books: *Jane Austen: Persuasion*..... Page 1

TV: *Death in the Calabrian*..... Page 1

Food: *Beach books*..... Page 9-14

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Entertainment: *Die Hard With a Vengeance*..... Page 1

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[Just in time]

Sandy Gall
within a
whisker
of his life
travel · 16

THE TIMES

weekend

SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

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'London may be hip – but your underwear scores nul points'

Jane Burton invites four young Parisians to the world's coolest city. Does it cut the mustard?

Even couch potatoes from the planet Zog must know that London is, for the moment, the centre of the style universe. The Americans proclaimed it first. Newsweek hailed London as the capital of cool last December but then, such is America's love affair with the mother country that some of its citizens would find a Yorkshire pudding chic. It means rather more, however, when the praise comes from the French.

"Le boom de Londres" has arrived, announces *Paris Match*, "adoreurs de la tendance" place in Europe, says *Nova* magazine in a whole supplement inviting its readers to "aller" and "be British".

The June issue of *Dépêche Mode* waxes lyrical about the charms of the British yob and his à la mode accessories: birds, beer and le football.

Paris Match's "le swing London" top ten includes, predictably, those "mauvais garçons" Oasis, the "belle Anglaise" Elizabeth Hurley, Ewan McGregor and Damien Hirst. And, of course, the Spice Girls, or "les filles spicés". Being French, everything is cranked up a libidinous notch: Ginger Spice becomes "Sexy-Spicy" while Baby Spice is the intriguing "Lolita Perverse". As for Page 3 pin-up Melinda Messenger, you can almost hear the sigh of relief that we frigid English have thawed at last as they rhapsodise about her "triumphant bosom".

However, somewhere in the Channel fog, the wires have crossed. In a Cantona-esque flight of poetic fancy, *Paris Match* dribbles the ball neatly up a cul-de-sac and along with Britpop, Brit Fash, Brit Art and Brit Boobs, unilaterally declares the Marquis of Bath, John Cleese and Richard Branson as high priests of London hip. Excusez-moi?

Meanwhile Eurostar, which shunts about 170,000 French visitors to London each month, most

of them under 40, has been cashing in with an advertising campaign promoting everything from the "ultimate clubbing experience" at the Ministry of Sound and *Ab Fab* shopping at Harvey Nichols, to curry houses. There is not a whisper about red telephone boxes, pearly kings and queens or Hogarthian sides of roast beef.

The times are obviously a-changing. So, in the interests of continental understanding, we took four young Parisians on a whistle-stop tour of London to sort their opinions, or at least their prejudices, from their Jarvis Cockers; their Bravsons from their Blairs. The willing volunteers were Marc Cosnard, des Closets, 34, a cheese exporter, and his wife Gaile, 32, a graphic designer, who arrived on the Friday morning on Eurostar with their friends, Cécile Baudoin-Menard, 21, and Robert Downey, 35, both actors.

The journey had been a delight, said Marc, especially the opportunity to peruse the Kent countryside. "I like to see the sheep. Sometimes they go faster than the train." At a somewhat speedier pace, we set out from Waterloo to discover London.

Friday: 12.30pm

Bar Italia

First stop Bar Italia, immortalised by Jarvis Cocker in the song he named after it as a mecca for London's washed-up clubbers: "You can't go home and go to bed because it hasn't worn off yet, and now it's morning. There's only one place we can go, it's round the corner in Soho..." Right place, then, only it's the wrong time. At 12.30 in the afternoon, the clubbers have finally stumbled home and we are standing in the washed-up tourist zone instead.

1pm, Quo Vadis

We adjourn a few streets away for lunch at Quo Vadis, the latest restaurant of Marco Pierre White, fished out by Damien Hirst. Upstairs in the bar, European Union takes its first blow when the waitress, asked for a glass of pastis, raises her eyebrows and says "what's that?"

The highly strung Marco Pierre has been heard to mutter darkly about putting horses' heads in the beds of those who cross him, so it is no surprise that he should favour Hirst's slayed cows in formaldehyde as decor. But the all-pervading whiff of preservative gets right up delicate French noses. "It smells disgusting. In France we prefer to eat our cows, not stuff them," says Marc who, it is becoming clear, is a master of the verbal Gallic shrug. The food receives better reviews: "When I told friends I was coming, they said 'yuk, mint sauce with everything and jelly!'" But

the things we have eaten are very good." The wine list, however, is greeted with snorts of derision: "One glass is as much as a pitcher in France!"

3pm, Le Shopping

Somewhat under-lubricated as a result of strike action over prices, we head for Soho and Joe Corre's lingerie boutique, Agent Provocateur. Corre is son of Vivienne Westwood

and Malcolm McLaren, and his shop is brimming with itsy-bisty proof that the days of armpit-hugging knickers are numbered on these shores. But although his merchandise may be favoured by supermodels, it seems it does not cut the mustard.

"It's not provocative at all. Transparent things are not sexy. There is no leather or rubber or lace," insists Gaile, making that

"mou" thing with her mouth that only French girls can pull off. Marc, although taken with a diamanté studded whip, is similarly nonplussed: "It is very civilised. If you call yourself provocateur, you should be provoking — like in Pigalle. How many years must we wait until British women wear the Pigalle style?"

Nul points, then, for our underwear. We are stuck

in a *Carry On* time warp, all slap and tickle and not enough raunch as far as smart Parisians are concerned. The rest of our clothes, however, have been seized upon wholeheartedly. Not only have young British designers (Stella McCartney, Alexander McQueen *et al*) invaded the halls of haute couture, our pop stars have

Continued on page 2



SHOPPING 23 GARDENING 45 PROPERTY 7,8 FEATURES 10 HOME LIFE 11 COUNTRY LIFE 13 TRAVEL 15-20 GAMES 23



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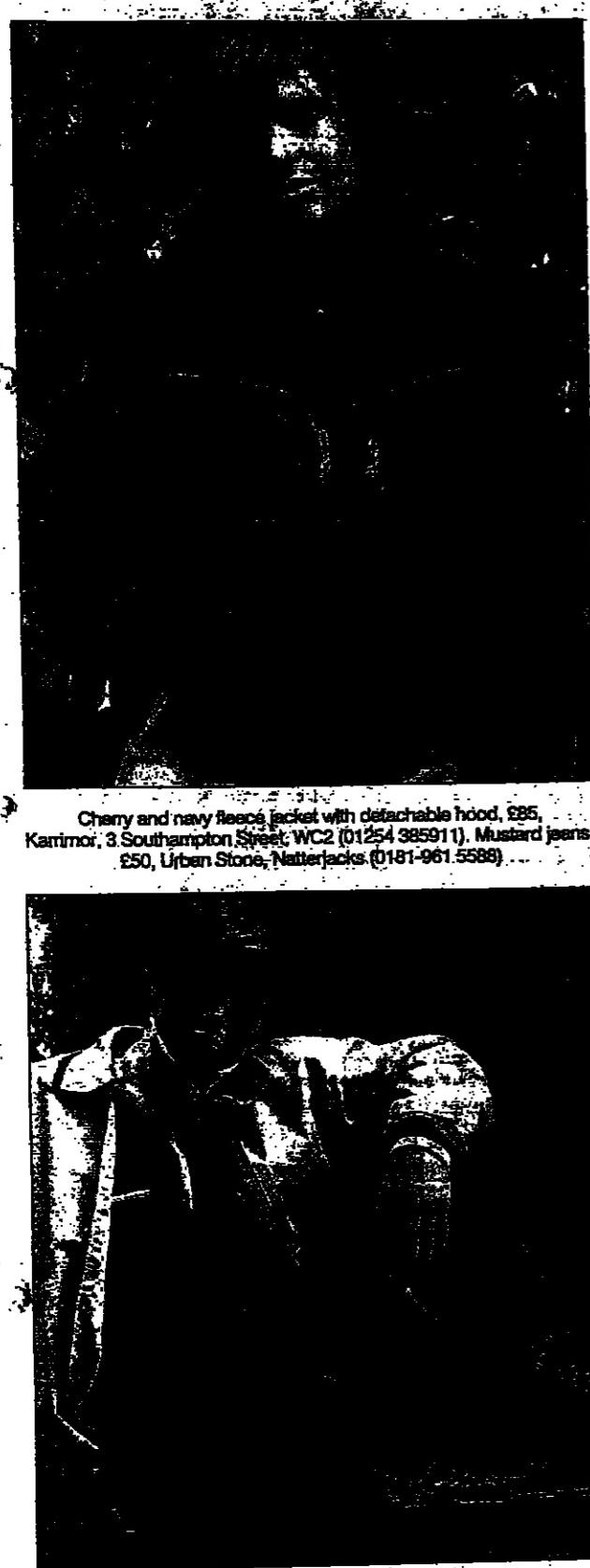
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Menswear takes a hike



Cream and navy fleece jacket with detachable hood, £95, Karrimor, 3 Southampton Street, WC2 (01254 385911). Mustard jeans, £50, Urban Stone, Natterjacks (0181-961 5588).



Cream MC rubber jacket with zip, £19.99, Quicksilver, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-287 2039). Navy and cream zip knit top, £25; Indigo jeans, £37, Replay, Shopping Acre, WC2 (0171-257 5832). Leather walking boots, £59.99, Ellesse, from L.D. Sports, selected branches (01834 46 5955).

Navy T-shirt, £16.99; navy and white nylon jacket, £89.99, Kangol, from selected River Island branches nationwide (0171-487 4888)



Olive fleece, red-trim, hooded top, £71.99, Vans, from Cobra Sports, 41 Carnaby Street, W1 and selected branches nationwide (0181-877 9907). Dark blue round neck T-shirt, £16.99, Kangol, from selected River Island branches nationwide (0171-487 4888). Mustard woven Jean-style trousers, £50, Urban Stone, Natterjacks, 40 Fife Road, Kingston, southwest London (0181-961 5588).

Olive suede trainers, £59.99, Kangol, as before.

Pale green driving shoes, £170, J.P. Tolles, Harrods, SW1 (0171-730 1224).

Tan driving shoes, £29.95, Vivendi, Debenhams, W1 and major stores (0171-955 2002).

DRIVING SHOES OF A KIND

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Photos: Richard Burman. Grooming: Sally Edwards for Jo Hansford (0171-485 7774). Styling: Amundip Uppal

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Heath Brown on the outdoors look as urban streetwear

Who would have thought that a country ramble or a spot of hiking could turn into a fashion show? The trend began in the early Nineties when brighter colours and design-conscious outfits were created for skiers and snowboarders, always the sporty posers. The rest of the outdoors brigade, once ridiculed as "anoraks", decided to demand stylish gear too. Out went the trusty sludge-coloured kagoule and in came branded clothing in fluorescent hues. They not only looked good, they also fulfilled their function.

"New colours, fabrics and technologies have come into vogue, and all the outdoor pursuit companies have to keep up with the competition and trends, progressively producing new styles," says Robert Bruce, product manager or Karrimor.

And thanks to the recent proliferation of "dangerous sports" the outdoors look has become so stylish it has filtered into urban streetwear. It appeals to men who want to look as if they're prepared for the great outdoors even though they wouldn't venture further than the car park.

Sporty rainproof jackets, loose zipped anoraks, hooded fleecy tops in modern colours, patch-pocketed rambler trousers and chunky hiker-type boots are adopted by all kinds every Saturday morning on every high street.

However, the best fleece jacket, high-tech waterproof coat and walking boots that allow your feet to breathe are among the must-haves for the true urban adventurer. No wonder fashion names such as Next, Kangol and Replay have mimicked more authentic labels such as Berghaus, Karrimor and Helly Hansen. But bear in mind that the fashion garments are not as durable as the real thing.

"It may be a sportswear look but it is not true performance clothing," says Mo Khan of Kangol. "It is made for the urban guy who wants pukka quality, but with a cutting streetwise edge."

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GARDENER'S UPDATE



JANE OWEN

RAJ TENT CLUB sells the world's most exotic garden pavilions, with a climatic range from Scandinavia to the Caribbean. They are gorgeously exotic canvas, cotton and silk rooms based on the traditional tents of Rajasthan, made in the Indian province but adapted for modern life. "We use all the local skills of Rajasthan from woodblock printing to carpentry, embroidery and tassel-making," says Clarissa Mitchell, the founder of the company. Ms Mitchell's work will be familiar to anybody who saw the Mughal Garden sponsored by the Maharajah of Jodhpur at the Chelsea Flower Show this year. A blue-and-white pavilion that she designed stood at the back of a formal garden based on the garden of the Taj. It sold for £6,500 including the drapes, blinds and floor-cushions, and is now pitched beside the sea in a Mughal garden in Kuwait. The company's standard tents range from a two-metre-square, scallop-edged, lined pergola for £385 to its most popular item, an octagonal pavilion 13ft in diameter (£1,500) to grand marques for £25,000.

• Raj Tent Club, 64 Kensington Park Road, London W11 3BZ (0171-221 477; fax 0171-565 2803).

In a glass of its own

THOSE who have swum through the "jungle pool" area of Center Parcs in the middle of winter will be aware of the heat efficiency of the vast glass dome which encloses the swimming area. It is made from a type of Pilkington glass, coated with an ultra-thin layer of metal, which lets in shortwave radiation from the sun yet retains longwave radiation from fires inside. A form of this glass is now available for conservatories, and Pilkington claims that it offers 30 per cent better insulation than double glazing. For more information call 0800 556000.

Webbedfeat

THE INTERNET site www.gardening-uk.com is designed to take the strain out of armchair plant-hunting. Instead of having to find an appropriate nursery by browsing through the *Plant Finder* or magazines, you access the web site, which lists a range of catalogues which can then be ordered via your home computer — so there is no need to ring or write. William Wallace, who started the web site, used to run a conifer nursery. He is planning to add land-

scaping companies, garden equipment manufacturers and a list of gardening books to his site. For information, ring 01403 804797.

To my mind, the *RHS Plant Finder* is still the best investment for gardeners, even if it is slightly more long-winded than doing it the web site way. It lists 70,000 plants and where to buy them. *RHS Plant Finder* 1997-98 is published by Dorling Kindersley at £12.99, and is also available on CD-Rom.

Exotic, ay!

Logan Botanic Garden bills itself as the most exotic in Scotland, so its managers are running a "fire and spice" tour of the walled garden on Wednesday, July 9, at 11am to display perennials from the southern hemisphere.

For more information contact Logan Botanic Garden, Port Logan, Wigtonshire DG9 0ND (0176 860251).

Palace view

STEPHEN ANDERTON, the Times gardener, is a master of wild gardening. He will be sharing his expertise at Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire at a "special interest day" on September 10. Waddesdon, built in 1874, is surrounded by informal and formal landscapes. The day will focus on The Dairy, a

water garden normally closed to the public. The day costs £5 a person and includes lunch, coffee and tea. Call 01295 851226.

Dock leaves

THE South East Garden Festival runs from August 1-3 at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent. It will feature the usual delights from specialist nursery stalls, including miniature roses, cacti, perennials and bonsai. Tickets are £5 (children £3), opening hours 10am-6pm. Parking is free. Motorists should leave the M20 at Junction 6, trains depart from Charing Cross

and Victoria. For further information on the festival, ring 01795 844939.

Run wild

PLANTLIFE is currently buying wildflower meadows in order to preserve these important habitats. Annual membership is £19. For further information contact the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD (0171-938 9111).

THE telephone number for the Herb Society (Weekend, June 28) is 0171-823 5583. Senior citizens' membership is £17.50.



The two-handed pruner

Hosta 'Devon Green'

FIND OF THE MONTH
SINCE last autumn I have had to do much pruning and chopping back of overgrown roses, rosemary, lavender, lavatera, fruit trees and bay. The job has been transformed by a Wilkinson Sword two-handed pruner/light lopper. Although two-handed, these are very light and strong, the blades do not stick and they seem to bite through the toughest shrub or small tree branch. Only one of the blades is metal, the rest of the tool is made from a plastic/fibreglass compound. RRP £19.99. Telephone 01966 655994 for nearest stockist.

BARGAIN OF THE MONTH 1

POSTCODE plants is a free scheme that tells you which native plants thrive in your area. Write to the charity Flora for Fauna and it will send you a five or six-page list of the plants and animals historically native — ie, some of them may no longer be there. It is part of the scheme by Jill, Duchess of Hamilton, to promote English plants for English gardens.

"I had no idea so many people would

be interested. Two thousand have written for their postcode plants since the Chelsea Flower Show in May," the Duchess says. "Our database, which is part of a joint project with the Natural History Society, is still in the development stage, so we welcome any written criticisms or corrections." Those interested in the scheme should write on a postcard, with their address, to: Flora for Fauna, c/o Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0LQ.

OPEN THIS WEEKEND

amphitheatre of lawns to the west, planted in 1984. To one side of this, a fast-maturing arboretum of ornamental trees is divided from a woodland garden by tall hornbeam hedges. In the walled garden, old brick walls enclose a series of interlinking sections, with a long central vista down to the church tower.

If you are looking for somewhere to travel to today (noon-6pm) and tomorrow (1pm-5pm) the garden festival at Wye College near

Ashford, the horticultural college of Lndon University.

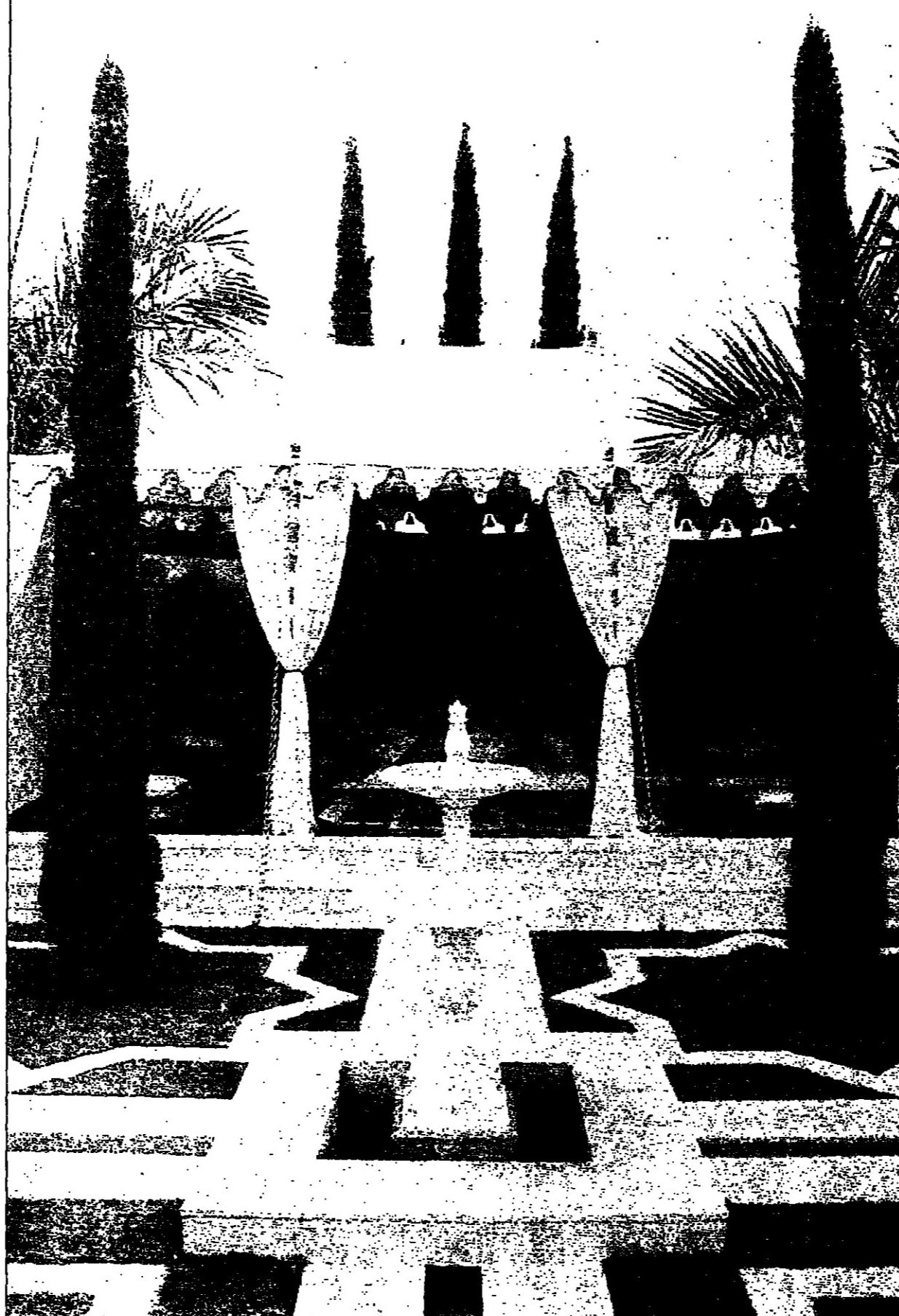
■ Lake House, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire (01962 73-820). Off B3046, 4m north of Alresford, follow signs for The Grange. Open: tomorrow 1pm-5pm, £3.50; children free.

Lake House, in the Candover valley deep in rural Hampshire, follows the lines of an old brick wall enclosing a garden setting, which includes a superb kitchen

arguably the most important neo-Grecian house in England. Its shell is now preserved by English Heritage and the ghoulish but magnificent facade entices many of the few visitors can enjoy.

The landscaped park with lakes, a cascade and immaculately planted woodland was obviously created for the Grange, and makes a delightful contrast to Lake House and its more recently created garden setting, which includes a superb kitchen

GEORGE PLUMPTRE



Perfect for an Indian summer: the Raj Tent Club creates canvas, silk and cotton garden palaces for the discerning

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q We have just moved into a cottage which has been uninhabited for five years. The garden is riddled with ground elder, nettles and brambles, with a "lawn" of rough grass. How do we create a nice lawn and a space for the dog and baby to play on? We have tried dog-friendly weedkillers which worked for ten days, then everything sprouted again. — S. Gaudas, Kings Langley, Herts.

Q Last autumn I planted Campanula carpania in the garden. It never flowered and eventually died. I found a dozen yellow spherical objects a few millimetres across in the soil. They crunched like eggshells, spouting a fluid with some force when pressed. What were they, did they kill the plant, and will they spread? — R.N. Hinckliffe, Leeds.

A Forget weedkillers for a while. Hire a mower suitable for rough areas, such as a flail mower, and hack down the area you expect to be lawn. Scythe it down, or strim it, if you prefer. Rake it off, then just keep mowing it. You will be amazed how soon you get a green and even surface. In cultivated areas, though, you may well need to resort to weedkillers.

Q Last October I moved a 6ft firethorn (*pyracantha*) a few years old to another position. Leaves have been produced about 9in up the stem but no farther. Should I saw off the upper growth? — B.A. Reece, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

A Saw it off at 9in. Mature pyracanthas do not like being moved. Like thorns and hollies, they develop a questing, wiry root system which you can never move intact. However, at least yours is alive and with a good mulch of manure or compost and regular watering, it should be tall again in two years.

Q Last autumn I planted *C. carpania* in the garden. It never flowered and eventually died. I found a dozen yellow spherical objects a few millimetres across in the soil. They crunched like eggshells, spouting a fluid with some force when pressed. What were they, did they kill the plant, and will they spread? — R.N. Hinckliffe, Leeds.

A These are just the spent cases of encapsulated slow-release fertiliser. Nurserymen mix them into their compost to ensure that plants have a constant supply of food over a set number of days. *C. carpania* is not the easiest of plants to grow and needs good drainage and air movement. It may have died of a wet, peaty compost.

• Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Ponting Street, London E1 9KN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.

WEEKEND TIPS

- Dead-head peonies and delphiniums as necessary. Remove the spent flowers on petunias, argyranthemums and nasturtiums. Break flowered stems on clumps of pinks off at the base.
- Strawberry runners may be pegged down with a piece of wire now, to produce extra plants.
- Earth up potatoes. A heavy watering will quickly boost the yield of earlies in dry areas. Continue to plant feeds for successive cropping.
- Take 2in tip cuttings under polythene of easy shrubs such as *Philadelphus* and *Potentilla*.

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A pilgrimage to Canterbury

■ Goodnestone Park, Canterbury, Kent (01304 840107)

Signed off B2146, either from A2 at Barham or from A257 at Wingham. Open: Mon, Wed-Fri, 11am-5pm. Sun noon-5pm, £2.50, under-12s 90p.

Shortly after walking into the garden, dawdle along the fine terraces in front of the house and watch a game of cricket in the park, or head for the far side to admire the gnarled trunk of an ancient sweet chestnut. There is a long lime avenue beyond the

Ashford, the horticultural college of Lndon University.

■ Lake House, Northington, Alresford, Hampshire (01962 73-820). Off B3046, 4m north of Alresford, follow signs for The Grange. Open: tomorrow 1pm-5pm, £3.50, children free.

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GEORGE PLUMPTRE

Hooked on raising cane

Warning: Bamboo can be addictive and addictive and can seriously affect your relationship with less interesting plants. So run the label on a packet of bamboo information cards from Jungle Giants, a bamboo nursery in Herefordshire.

Do you believe it? There is no doubt that bamboos are currently the darlings of the landscape industry. German gardeners cannot get enough of them, despite the fact that bamboos are relatively expensive. But there are so many to choose from, and to the uninitiated they all look alike. Nor does it help that the botanists have just gone through two convulsions of name revision. Like ferns, you need to get to know bamboo to appreciate their charms. Then you're hooked.

For years I have been recommending *Fargesia murielae*, previously known as *Arundinaria murielae* and then *Sinarundinaria murielae*. It is a hardy species which does not run at the root, but makes a 12ft fountain of stems which wave in the wind.

Recently however, *F. murielae* has done the dastardly bamboo trick of flowering and dying throughout the world. Plants that have flowered and took sick may just recover, but the chances are they will die.

So what will happen to the 70,000 *F. murielae* currently 'sitting' in a Belgian nursery poly-tunnel? Will they be sold? Or burnt? Certainly just now there is no point in taking a risk on large specimens of this species. Settle for small seedling plants, and know that they will go from strength to strength. (This bamboo is easy from seed; sow as soon as the seed is bullet hard, say in August, in a tray outdoors. The seeds will germinate quickly.)

Michael Brisbane, who runs Jungle Giants, is of course hooked on bamboos. He trained as a forester, but

The ease and speed of growing bamboo means you can rapidly create a jungle in your garden. Stephen Anderton reports

when a tree fell and mangled his arm while working in the far East, it was time to change. He came home, bought out a substantial botanical collection of bamboo which was jungle-giants, and set up business.

Bamboos are now his life. He has studied commercial bamboo growing and imports from the East and exports to America. He imports dried bamboo too – and constructs garden buildings with it. He has built a loggia of bamboo and corrugated iron on his own barn which looks really at home even in Herefordshire.

According to Mr Brisbane, all species of *Fargesia* struggle to recover from flowering, whereas species of *Phyllostachys* survive flowering better. That is lucky, because some *Phyllostachys* are among the most ornamental species of those bamboos which will grow in Britain. The black-stemmed bamboo, *P. nigra*, is an exciting thing. It is a polite, clump-forming species, not a ramer to take

over the garden, grows to 12ft, and has shiny black stems. It requires full sun to produce the darkest stems, and thinning out older weak stems admits more light to the centre of the plant. The colour develops as the stems mature, so don't worry if the new stems are still pale. They will darken with time.

We looked in Mr Brisbane's nursery at the yellow-stemmed *P. aureocaulata* 'Speciosus', another very hardy species whose stems are yellow in shade and orange in full sun. There is a striking green stripe down the stem between joints on alternate sides.

The new shoots sprout early in spring, which create a frost problem in some bamboos, but not this one. The young stems tend to bend over at about a foot high, then pull upright again, putting an attractive plumber's kink into the mature canes. Flower arrangers would love it. Mr Brisbane finds this a much better bet in Britain than *P. bambusoides* 'Castillon' which, al-

though it carries a similar delicious stripe in the stems, is less suited to our climate.

Mr Brisbane obviously enjoys the sheer productiveness of bamboo. "With bamboo as a timber crop, you can take off 10-25 tonnes of wood per hectare every year. Some species will grow to 100ft in three months. North west of Canon, there's a county the size of Wales covered in *Pseudosasa amabilis*, which produces 80 per cent of the world's garden canes."

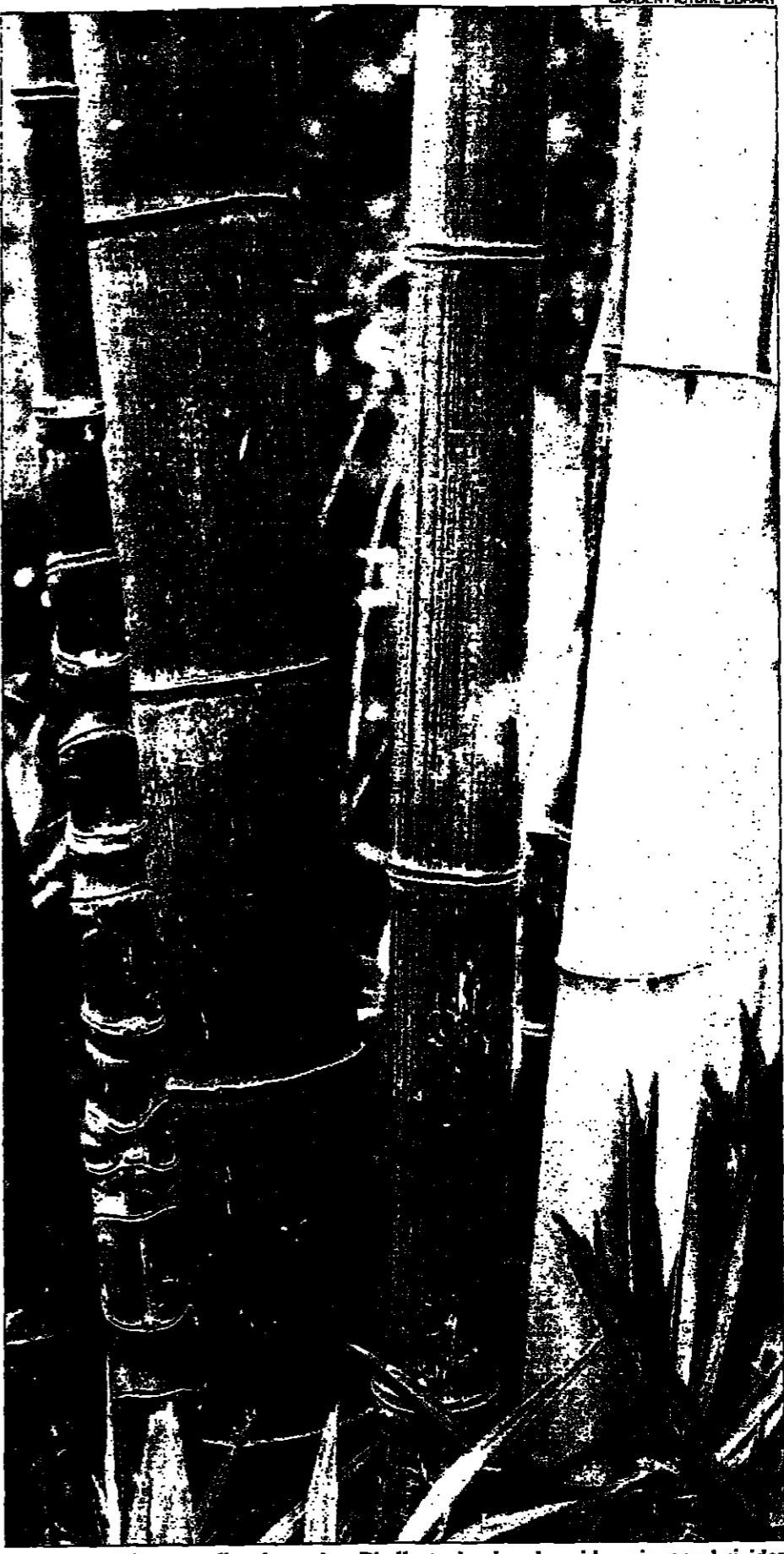
I asked about the so-called crop failures in China, leading to garden centres sometimes saying canes are scarce. "It can happen. But the supply never dries up, because they cut the canes at two years old instead of the full three it takes for the canes to become woody; that's why you sometimes get weak canes. It's not good management, but it happens."

We talked about an idea I had to plant a grove of bamboos beside my house, with a path snaking through among the stems. "You must plant some *Chusquea breviflora*. It makes really fat stems well spaced out. You'd get a proper thicket and a tall canopy. Just don't think you'll ever be able to get it out again; the underground stems are as far as your arm!"

And for the fastest, jazziest effect, with canes as fast as our climate will produce? "You would need *Phyllostachys propinquia*. It's a new species in cultivation. It goes up like a rocket. It should make 25ft." And there it was, a plant just a few years old, with stems 12ft tall, and canes and leaves of a rich, glossy racing green. I shall have to have one. Somewhere.

● Jungle Giants, open by appointment only, 01586 770708, At Plough Farm, Wigmore, Herefordshire HR6 9UW and at Burford House Gardens, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire WR15 8HQ.

Michael Brisbane's bamboo loggia



Crops for building as well as decoration: *Phyllostachys bambusoides*, *nigra* and *viridis*

Bamboo can come in a huge variety of shapes and sizes. From left to right:
Phyllostachys propinquia,
Thamnochlaena crassinodus,
Fargesia murielae,
Phyllostachys nigra,
Arundinaria murielae,
Phyllostachys aureocaulata,
'Speciosus',
Chusquea breviflora

TIPS ON GROWING BAMBOO

- Don't let them dry out when young. When established they will stand a great deal of drought.
- Feed them well, but early in the season, so that they don't make soft late growth which could be damaged by frost. A good spring mulch is always beneficial.
- Remember the canes get fatter and taller as the plant matures. The first stems can weep over, but later years' growth will be more upright and taller. Cut out the old weepers then, if you prefer.
- Bamboos are slow to establish. It is worth paying £25 to get a plant a few years old which will romp away.
- A position sheltered from strong winds is advisable to keep the foliage pristine especially through the winter.
- If you can spare the stems, eat the shoots. Cut them just as they emerge from the soil. As soon as they hit air they start to become woody.

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A prep school in Kent closes today and is up for sale. It would suit someone with an extremely large family, Katherine Bergen suggests



Children of Sibton Park School play at the rear of the main house (left). Needlework lessons in the long drawing room (right), the only part of the private dwelling used by the pupils, and (below) the main facade of the Grade II listed house



House with a touch of class

It was sports day when I visited Sibton Park prep school near Ashford in Kent. A lady in the corridor, surrounded by a gaggle of girls, was dispensing ice-cream from a tub to outstretched cones. As I looked on longingly, a little voice piped up, "you can't have any". It emanated at midriff level, from a small girl who giggled at me as she demolished her cone and trotted off to play rounders.

The school — like Diana, Princess of Wales's alma mater West Heath — is for sale. After 30 years as a school run by the same family, numbers of pupils have fallen and after this term they leave for good.

The present owner's grandmother founded the school in 1948, running it from her own home. The school is now run by her granddaughter and her husband, Penelope and Charles Blackwell. Mrs Blackwell proudly picks out the famous old girls from among hundreds of faces in the school photographs. Caroline Langrishe, the actress, and Princess Alia of Jordan spent their schooldays here as did the proprietress herself, and her children are there now.

Although the property is cluttered with school paraphernalia — endearing pictures and poems plastered on walls — the main house, which is Grade II listed and built in



1600, has largely remained a private home. The family lives here and, except for excursions into the long drawing room for needlework, the pupils use the 19th-century wing and added classrooms.

But if the concert hall fell down, there would be no difficulty in accommodating the entire school in this room. It is 53 ft long and 20 ft wide.

Oak-panelled walls offset two stone fireplaces. Another fireplace, in the smaller drawing room next door, is dated 1602.

For all their grandeur, these rooms do still show the effects of ever-present children. Even the impressive crimson dining room is home to a large number of saddles which are

currently stored here after some burglaries at the stables.

The house is certainly in need of some renovation. Although the roof has been re-leaded, interior ceilings show signs of previous damage. Upstairs, the principal bedrooms are beamed but, uncharacteristically, have high ceilings.

But it is the further 16 bedrooms which warm the heart. Forty boarders are accommodated in these, in pretty white wrought iron beds. Each room reveals a variety of teddies and other furry animals and each cupboard houses the pastel colours of the

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Sibton Park, nr Ashford, Kent. • Price: offers in the region of £350,000.

Should be little difficulty converting back to private dwelling.

• Transport: Channel Tunnel five miles away and Dover 15 miles away. Ashford station has fast services to London (70 minutes) and Eurostar services to Paris and Brussels. • Entertainment: racing at Folkestone, cricket at Canterbury, golf at Sandwich, sailing, angling.

• Advantages: New owners will be able to make as much noise as they like as nothing will compare to the decibel level of dozens of little girls at play. • Disadvantages: Old girls forever turning up on the door step to have a look at their old school

gingham summer uniform.

The 11 classrooms were full of evidence of the term's efforts. In the art room large painted paper-mâché animals had been finished the night before for an exhibition.

They were shown off by the art teacher who had reservations about the horse which looked more like a donkey.

Feeling more and more like a responsible parent, I inspected the grounds. A brick loggia

leads into a walled rose garden and a gate from here to the kitchen garden and tennis courts. Nearby, a heated swimming pool is screened off by a high hedge, and there is a riding school with stabling for 17 ponies. The gardens are beautifully kept and amount to 43 acres including the parkland. An adjacent farm with 146 acres, also owned by the family, is for sale too.

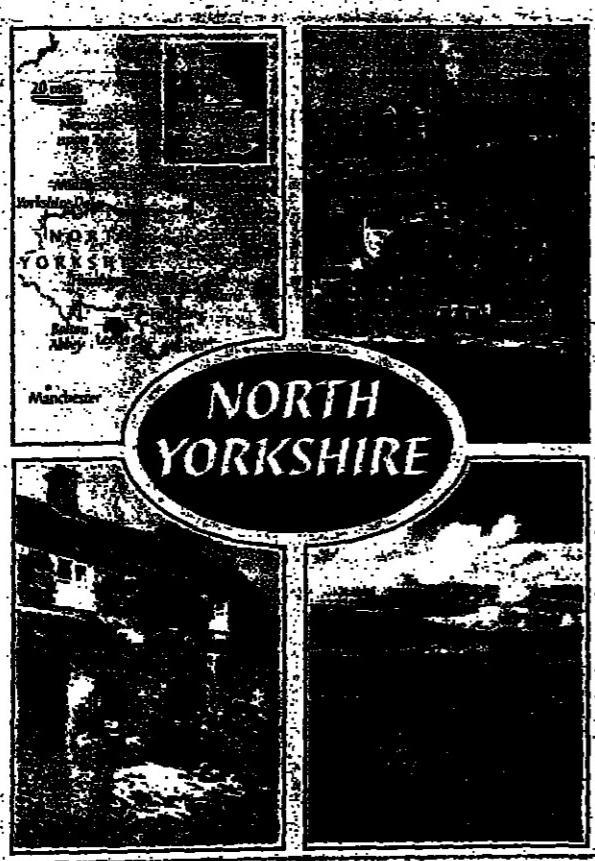
It is difficult to imagine this house without the children and almost as hard to imagine the pet area bereft of all the rabbits and guinea pigs. It is sad that the school trophies for trampolining and riding will be engraved for the last time.

Unless there is an Old Mother Hubbard buyer who could overrun it with children again or a polygamous gentleman with several wives and many offspring, it will also be a less joyful place.

I hope the boarders have a huge farewell midnight feast on their last night.

• Agent: Strutt & Parker, 01227 451122.

PROPERTY PROFILE: NORTH YORKSHIRE



A weekly look at the property market around Britain

Attactions: Boasting two National Parks, in the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors, as well as historic York, Castle Howard, Bolton Abbey and Rievaulx, North Yorkshire also caters for bucket and spade holidays around Whitby and Scarborough. The county also lures locomotive aficionados, with the North York Moors Railway from Pickering to Grosmont; while the east coast InterCity service takes only one and three-quarter hours from York to London. Property hotspots are within the York, Harrogate and Leeds (over the border) triangle.

The market: Warm, according to Clegg Kennedy Drew in Howthorpe. They estimate prices have risen by between 5 and 8 per cent in the past year, and that the number of cash buyers has increased. Savills in York finds that demand outweighs supply, according to Savills. The market in the region reached its peak in 1990, says Savills, but fell by about 25 per cent between 1991 and December 1992. Recovery began last year, although prices are still 5 per cent below previous highs.

Expect to pay: Three-bedroom cottages are going for £100,000 to £140,000; traditional farmhouses from £200,000 to £300,000; and medium-size country houses from £400,000 to £500,000, according to Savills. The majority of buyers are from within the area, says Jackson-Stops & Staff in York, which has about three times more applicants now than this time last year, with many looking for village houses and old rectories.

Significant sales: Lead Hall, a 19th-century former farmhouse at Saxton, near Tadcaster, attracted about 100 viewers in two weeks, and joint agents Jackson-Stops & Staff and Lane Fox received 12 offers, selling "handsomely" in excess of its £25,000 guide price. The house is near to the site of the battle of Towton, where 30,000 soldiers fell during the War of the Roses.

Outlook: Promising. Humberstone reckons supply will increase, taking the heat out of the market. Jackson-Stops & Staff says the upturn will continue, but also expects supply to improve.

AMANDA LOGGIE

• Next week's property profile: Wiltshire

Cutting a dash with pebble mosaics

When people stumble across the pebble mosaic outside Robert and Anna Dalrymple's house they are amazed the couple did not make it themselves.

"It's not the sort of thing you imagine you can commission people to do," Mr Dalrymple says. The sentiment is fully justified because those who make pebble mosaics for a living appear to be pretty thin on the ground.

The visual arts information service, Axis, has 2,000 names on its database (the National Artists' Register), but has nobody listed in this particular area, while the Crafts Council has just one name, Maggy Howarth.

In fact it was Mrs Howarth who made the mosaic for the Dalrymples. They first saw her work two years ago in a garden at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh and later someone lent them her book, *The Art of Pebble Mosaic*. In the end the couple decided to commission Mrs Howarth to do the work.

On Mrs Howarth's first visit to the Dalrymples' Georgian rectory she measured up and took pictures of the area outside the front door where the abstract mosaic was to be placed to complement the half-light over the door. Mrs Howarth made the one-metre square piece in sections, and the joins cannot be seen.

Pebble mosaic goes back centuries and is still practised in several Mediterranean countries. The ancient Greeks made floors from pebbles, and the Chinese, Moors in Spain and Renaissance designers in Italy extended the idea to the garden.

It was while redesigning her own cottage garden 15 years ago that Mrs Howarth first experimented with pebbles, following a tradition of fine cobblework that she had observed in nearby towns and villages.

Before long I realised the possibilities of the medium, not only as a garden ornament but as a way of making decorative pavements to help alleviate some of the boredom of modern townscapes.

Since then, she has completed mosaics all over the country, commissions for city



Maggy Howarth's pebble work on display on a pavement at Birkenhead Park, Merseyside, left, and outside the Dalrymples' home, above

centres, hospitals, schools, parks, conservatories and sites outside private homes.

One couple chose a bird design for their garden because they loved birdwatching, a butcher wanted a sheep and a cow on the pavement outside his shop, another family wanted a "Tree of Life" to celebrate the birth of a child.

Mrs Howarth has just completed a water feature for Bradford city centre and is working on a mosaic for the Dunblane Memorial Gardens with her husband, Boris, a letter carver.

Another commission is for Lytham St Annes, her 50 sq metre design incorporating windmills, trees, fish and the Lancashire rose. Her ambition is to do a major piece for the millennium.

Commissions are almost always exclusively designed. However, Mrs Howarth does

have seven small "off-the-shelf" pebble mosaics for the garden. They range in price from £238 plus £50 delivery for a swallow motif to £655 plus £50 delivery for an exotic bird design that is over a metre in diameter. The cost of a commissioned piece starts from £800.

"Most people don't think the mosaics are expensive. We put a lot of effort into selecting the stones and getting the detail right. And they will last for a very long time," Mrs Howarth says.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

- Maggy Howarth (Cobblestone Design): 01524 74204
- The Art of Pebble Mosaic, by Maggy Howarth, Search Press, Wellwood, North Farm Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3DR. Freephone 0800 408860. Price £19.95, post free.
- Axis: 0113 2833125.
- The Crafts Council reference desk: 0171 800 2501.

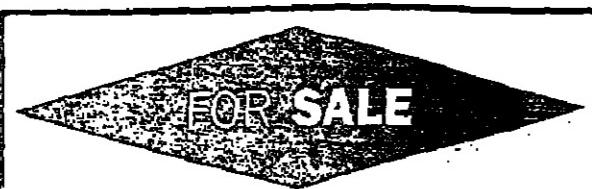
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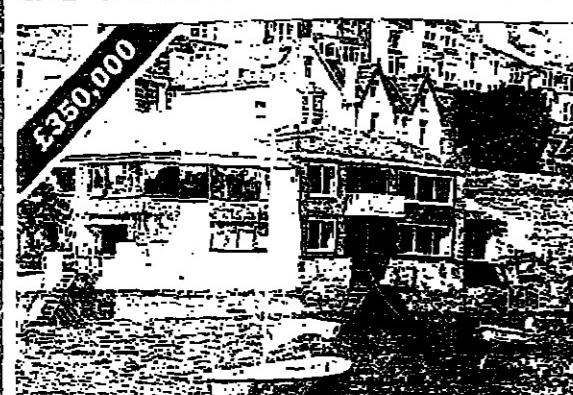
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ROCHE BOBOIS PARIS

Postcodes from the edge



WATERFRONT HOUSES



DEVON: Lidsomes, Dartmouth. Former boathouse converted into two apartments and a self-contained studio, with direct access to the river Dart, private mooring, parking, garage and storage. Flat one has two en suite bedrooms, a drawing room with balcony, kitchen, dining room and cloakroom. The second has one bedroom, bathroom, living room/kitchen and workshop. About £350,000 (Fulford, 01392 412007).



HERTFORDSHIRE: Old Westmill Farm, Ickleford, Hitchin. A 17th-century Grade II listed farmhouse with 15 rooms in need of refurbishment, four-room cottage with stores and a walled garden, coach house with eight rooms and a studio, barns and stable block in three acres of gardens fronting the river Oughton. About £795,000 (Lane Fox, 01932 784343).



OXFORDSHIRE: Gaunt Mill Standlake. Grade II listed period mill house in 23 acres of tranquil gardens and paddocks on the river Windrush. Three bedroom suites, three reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory and cloakroom. Cottage divided into two two-bedroom self-contained flats. About £365,000 (01865 730077).

CHERYL TAYLOR

If a home in that smart area is beyond your means, keep on down the road, says Amanda Loose

Mention Buckinghamshire to house hunters and they may well wax lyrical about the lure of the Chiltern village of Hambleden, Say Gloucestershire and they will probably focus on the Cotswolds, Cheshire prompts thoughts of Cheadle or Chester, while if Surrey is their destination, the target area is likely to be somewhere near Guildford.

In London, certain fashionable areas are known as "golden postcodes" because the number of prospective buyers easily exceeds the number of available properties in them. This means inflated prices and, inevitably, disappointment for many house hunters.

The answer to finding a property you like and can afford, estate agents say, is to be more open-minded from the outset. "Often, if buyers looked 30 minutes down the road from their chosen area, they would have a good chance of finding something they liked at a manageable price," says John Husband of Humberts.

"When people first start looking for a property, they have a fixed idea of where they want to live, what they want to buy and how much they want to spend," says Ivor Dickinson of Douglas and Gordon. "Buyers often call our Fulham office in London and say they will not consider living anywhere else. Yet more than 30 per cent of these people will eventually buy in a different area, such as Battersea or Clapham, which they originally considered a 'non-starter'."

Looking further than fashionable areas and the "golden postcodes", or just beyond the "acceptable" hour's commuting time from your place of work, can often reap benefits and savings without severely compromising your notion of the ideal home or forsaking attractive countryside.

Peter Wilde of Compass Relocation in Peterborough, whose clients have often narrowed their target area to just three or four villages, says: "We explain to buyers the difficulty of achieving the desired result and offer a range of alternatives. In most cases they will consider the wider options, particularly if they are keen to buy a house quickly."

The essential thing is to research



your chosen area carefully. Always take advice from an agent with good local knowledge and try to get an overall feel for the place.

Subtle boundaries can sometimes separate the affordable from the out-of-your-range. Jonathan Drinckwater of Butler Sherbon in Tebury, Gloucestershire, reckons that buyers can avoid a hefty premium by looking an extra 15 minutes down a major road or rail line – and cites the Leigh in Coaley, near Dursley, Gloucestershire, as a prime example. This Grade II* listed farmhouse, in need of some renovation, is for sale at £395,000; some 15 per cent less than it would cost in the nearby Cotswolds.

Christopher Dewe of Knight Frank, says there is a "magical" line beyond which prices drop markedly as the commuting time to London reaches nearly two hours. In Surrey, Michael Parry-Jones of Browns in Guildford estimates that prices fall by 5-7 per cent for every two miles travelled from Guildford towards Farnham. The properties and countryside are

just as appealing, he says, but the train services are just not as good.

Farther south, Richard Williscroft of Henry Adams and Partners in Chichester, West Sussex, is selling the Old Parsonage at Sidlesham, south of the A27, for about £325,000. Had it been in the Downs, just north of the A27, it would probably have cost at least £100,000 more.

Similarly, Jeremy Smallman of

BARGAIN AREAS

District National Park advises Cluttons to find farmhouses selling for £160,000-£170,000, compared with £200,000-£350,000 inside the park.

Hampshire: if you are attracted to Lyndhurst, on the edge of the New Forest, John D. Wood recommends looking for properties to the north of the town's high street.

London: choose with care in central London. The Peterborough Estate properties in Finsbury are divided by the Wandsworth Bridge Road; those on the west side go for at least £100,000 more

than those on the east side, says Anthony Walker of Friend and Falcke.

If you are lured by fashionable Notting Hill and Holland Park but stumped by the prices, try the Baywater and Paddington fringes such as Westbourne Terrace or the north end of Ladbrooke Grove, says Mark Collier of Foxtons. A two-bedroom flat there will cost between £170,000 and £250,000.

In Belgravia, north of Victoria station, a mews house would go for between £400,000 and £500,000 in Pimlico, just to the south, a more modest £300,000, says James Gubbins of Damsons.

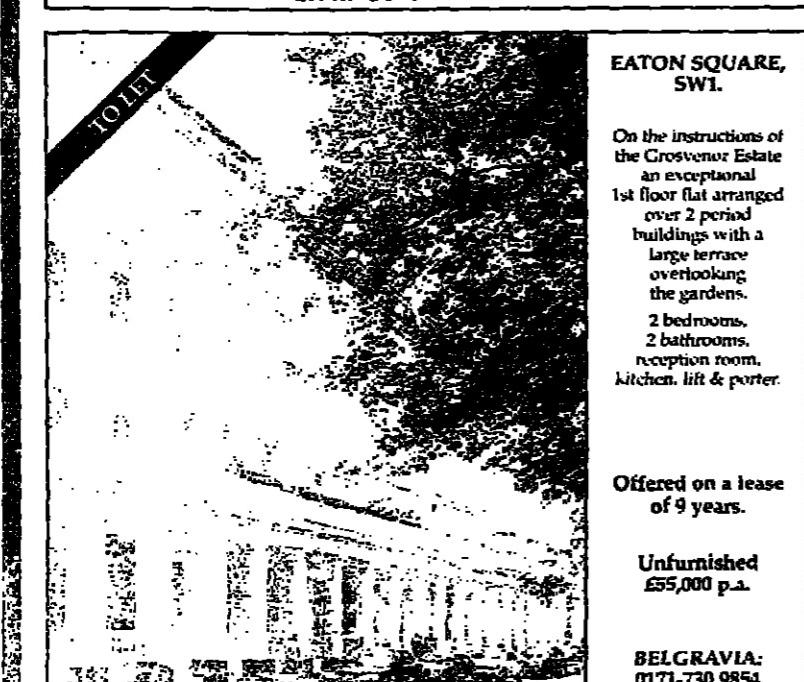
In north London, West Hampstead is a less expensive alternative to sought-after Hampstead village.

a downmarket name but beautiful countryside – and where you can get value for money".

Michael Parry-Jones of Browns in Guildford says: "I advise buyers to cover as many of their requirements as they can and, if they find six out of ten of their original ideals, they are doing well. Often the end result is very different from the original brief, but they end up happy."



NEW FOREST: Hordle. Offers invited for the freehold. An enlarged & refurbished house on the southern fringe of the New Forest. 5 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, study, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, garage/workshop & gardens with potential pony paddock. About 0.8 ha (2 acres). LYMPHTON: 01590 677233



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SURREY: Bramshott. Price Guide: £700,000

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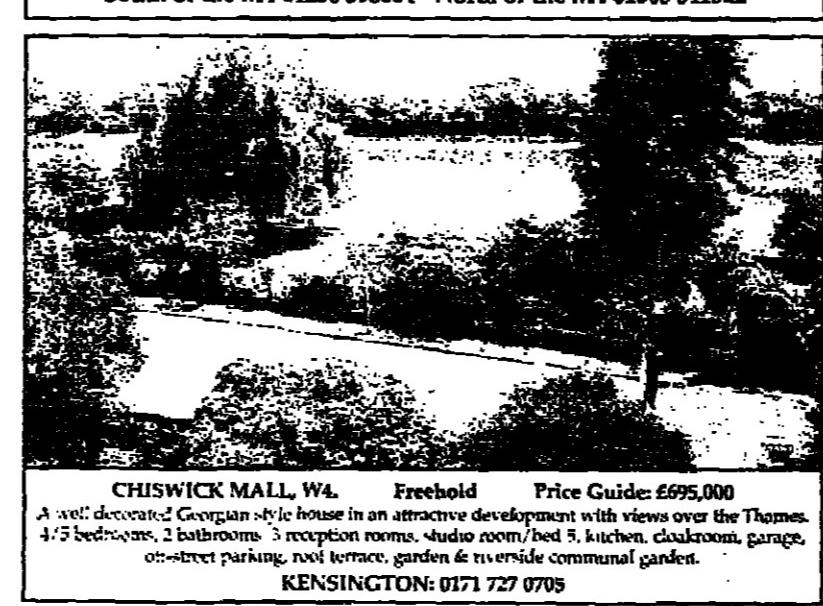
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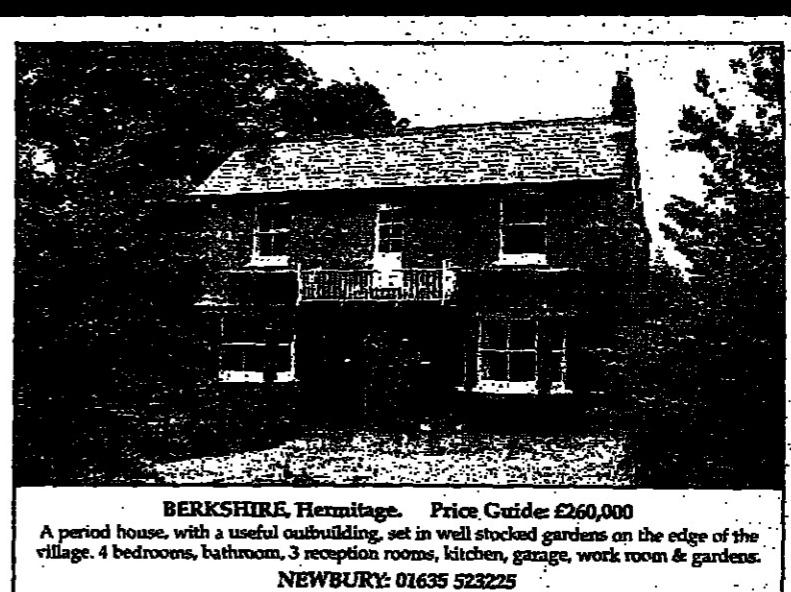
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CHISWICK MALL, W4. Freehold Price Guide: £695,000

A well-decorated Georgian-style house in an attractive development with views over the Thames. 4/5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, studio room/bed 5, kitchen, cloakroom, garage, on-street parking, roof terrace, garden & riverside communal garden.

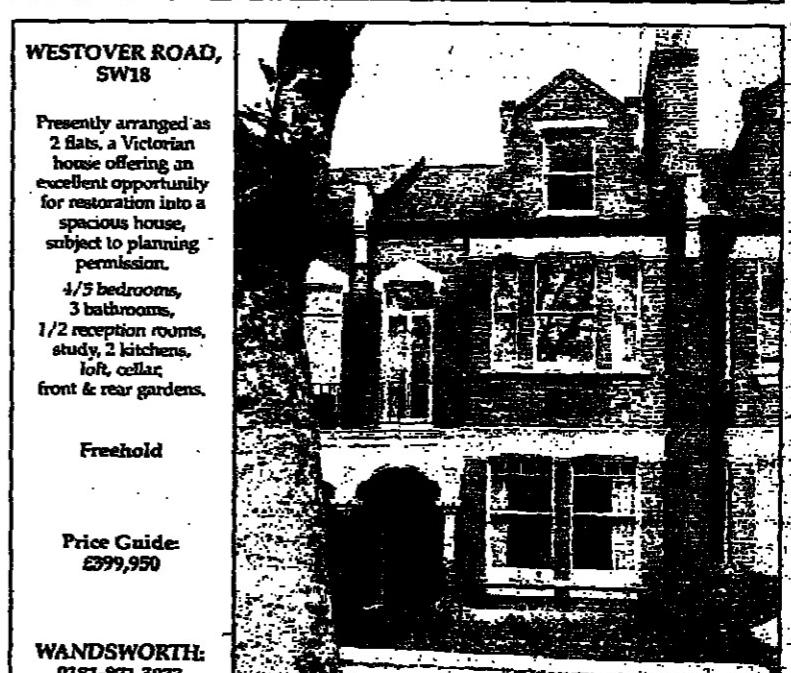
KENSINGTON: 0171 727 0705



BERKSHIRE: Hermitage. Price Guide: £260,000

A period house with a useful outbuilding, set in well stocked gardens on the edge of the village. 4 bedrooms, bathroom, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, garage, work room & garden.

NEWBURY: 01635 523225



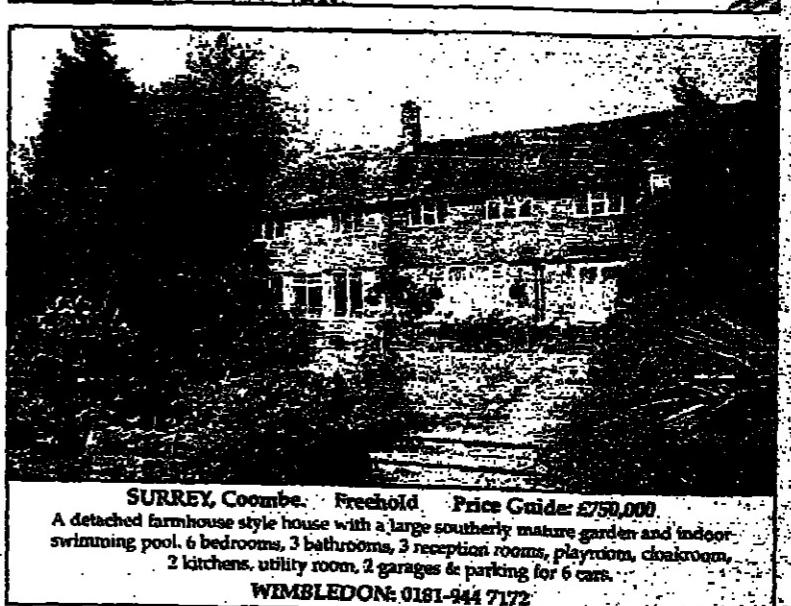
**WESTOVER ROAD,
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4/5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 1/2 reception rooms, study, 2 kitchens, loft, cellar, front & rear gardens.

Freehold

Price Guide:
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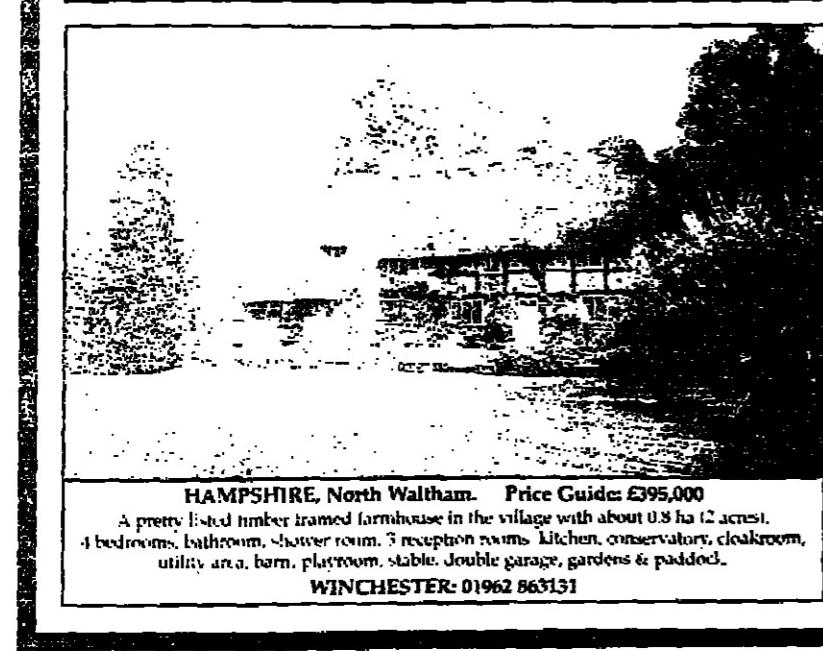
WANDSWORTH:
0181-871 3033



SURREY: Cowdray. Freehold Price Guide: £750,000

A detached farmhouse-style house with a large southerly mature garden and indoor swimming pool. 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, playroom, cloakroom, 2 kitchens, utility room, 2 garages & parking for 6 cars.

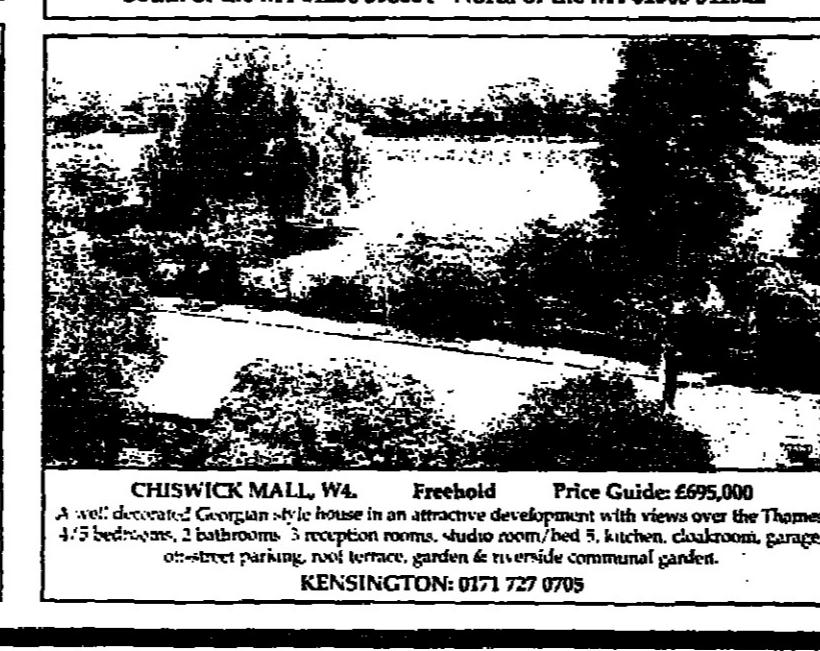
WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172



HAMPSHIRE: North Waltham. Price Guide: £395,000

A pretty listed timber-framed farmhouse in the village with about 0.8 ha (2 acres). 4 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, cloakroom, utility area, barn, playroom, stable, double garage, gardens & paddock.

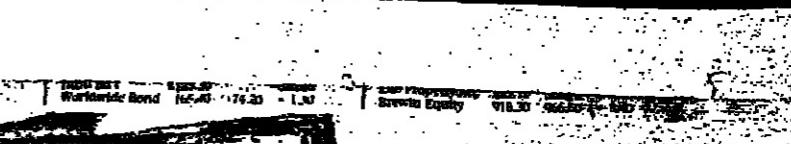
WINCHESTER: 01962 863131



CHISWICK MALL, W4. Freehold Price Guide: £695,000

A well-decorated Georgian-style house in an attractive development with views over the Thames. 4/5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, studio room/bed 5, kitchen, cloakroom, garage, on-street parking, roof terrace, garden & riverside communal garden.

KENSINGTON: 0171 727 0705



SOUTH GERRINGHAM, Kent. Price Guide: £125,000

A detached bungalow with a large southerly garden and indoor swimming pool. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, playroom, cloakroom, 2 kitchens, utility room, 2 garages & parking for 6 cars.

WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172

It's in it!

Explaining the facts of life is all fine and dandy in theory, but in practice the crucial difficulty is knowing how much detail to supply"

The details are hazy but the picture is still embarrassingly clear. We are playing ping-pong in my Mum and Dad's garage, listening to *Hair* on the tangerine record-player. The previous week my parents have been taken to see the musical by one of my father's racier business contacts and his wife. Since my father was very much a whisky rather than a weed man, this could have been a defining *Stones* moment for him. But it was not to be. No sooner had a bare-chested hippy from the cast handed him a flower and attempted to spread love 'n' peace over his cheek than he was off - with my mother reluctantly in tow.

I was about 12, and my friend must have been a year or so older. Toc toc, toc goes the ball, against our bats, as we warble our way through the songs. "Wear it long like Jesus wore it - Alleluia, don't you adore it? Share it... bare it... wear it... long, beautiful... hair!" This is the dawning of the age of Aquarius... and then - I can feel my cheeks burning at the memory - "Massachusetts can be fun... join the holy orgy Kama Sutra

... everyone." Toc toc, toc toc. "What exactly is masturbation?" I ask.

My parents didn't believe in furnishing me with the facts of life. "It wasn't the done thing in our day," my mother tells me when I ask her why. "We rather expected you to be telling us what it was all about." No chance of parents being so insouciantly unworldly these days. What with our middle-class angst and our child-centric culture, we couldn't possibly get away with being so casual about something as serious as sex.

If I cast my mind further back to my childhood, we seemed to be at it all the time. Not "it" itself, of course, but a version of it nonetheless. Perhaps the desert heat was responsible for inflaming our nascent sexual selves. Perhaps it was the 1950s taboo about sex which gave our childish play such an irresistible charge. Whatever the reason, the boys

and girls I knew liked nothing better than "playing willies", which usually took the conventional doctors and nurses form - mixing "potions" to smear on "private parts" - but occasionally descended into a junior master-slave routine replete with bondage.

Once I remember, my mother summoned me into the living-room with my friend Justin and said that the cook had seen us "showing ourselves" to one another in the sand pit. What I can still recall absolutely, was the sense that she didn't really take it seriously and, indeed,

was struggling to retain some control over her rebellious features.

I would be wise, I know, not to poke too much fun at this spectacle since it can only be a matter of time before I play my mother's role as I half-heartedly set about chastising one of my sons for an equally harmless misdemeanour.

This is all fine and dandy in theory, but in practice the crucial difficulty is knowing how much detail to supply - particularly when you are dealing with a mind of quite fearsome and persistent inquisitiveness. No way was our guy going to be palmed off with some nebulous story about sperm and eggs. Oh no. He wanted the nitty-gritty facts! "But how, Mum, does the man's sperm get to be anywhere near the woman's eggs?" So I told him and his eyes widened and he looked at his father and back at

his mother and - not surprisingly - giggled in disbelief.

Since then his appetite for information has become voracious. But he seems markedly less babyish about the subject than most of the grown-up men who read *Loaded*. It must be all that Latin terminology - no front-bottom and back-bottom stuff for us - and our ability to make sex sound as unexciting as possible.

Sex nearly always seems to take you by surprise. His younger brother and I were reading a wholesomely educational book called *I Wonder Why My Tummy Rumbles*, when suddenly - and rather sneakily - the Facts of Life leapt out on the very last pages, just when you're feeling pleasantly yawned, under the heading: "Where do I come from?" It was just as well the six-year-old was as tired as me and did not seem particularly interested in exploring the answer. Just as well too, because later that night his older brother had a question for me. "Mum, what's a wanker?"

Here we go again.

LIFE AND SOUL



GINNY DOUGARY

The serious business of sex

Why there's a school in my dining room

Would children learn better at home than at school? Emma Haughton finds more and more parents think so

The day a friend disclosed her plan to withdraw her six-year-old son from our local primary school to educate him at home with his two younger brothers, I thought it was mad, bad and dangerous to have three boys under her feet all day, but to risk them becoming socially isolated and withdrawn and dangerous to attempt a curriculum that defeats many teachers.

It conjured up nightmares of maladjusted child prodigies constantly chaptered by their pushy and over-protective parents.

According to Paula Turner, who teaches her four girls from their Birmingham home, mine was a common reaction. "We get an awful lot of criticism about home education," she says.

"I must admit when I first heard about it, I thought it was rather weird, and alternative. But when I had my last child and suddenly realised that someone else would be having my children for the best six hours of the day, I decided to look into it."

What she found was that home-schooling in the UK is quite legal; parents are simply required to provide an education appropriate to their child's age and abilities. (The LEA may do home inspections or ask for an outline of intended work.)

Three years later Paula and Barrie - Mr and Mrs Average with no higher qualifications, as Paula describes themselves - haven't looked back.

Now have her children. When she discussed her plans with Elizabeth and Georgina, they were ecstatic. "I asked them what they'd miss about school and they said friends and tuck. They see friends after school, and we have a tuck shop at home."

Days in the Turner household are enviable and relaxed. Although Paula aims for eight hours of formal education a week, she finds that freed from the constraints of a curriculum they often end up doing other things.

"That's the beauty of it, you can go with the flow," she says. "Children learn faster if what they are taught is applied to everyday life. They can see better why they have to know things."

Paula describes her girls as happy and confident - "not being with their peer group for 30 hours a week takes the



Paula Turner teaches her children at home in Birmingham. "Children learn faster if what they are taught is applied to everyday life. They can see better why they have to know things"

pressure off" - and her own life as tiring, but fulfilling.

Being a Christian, it's a lot easier teaching them from home.

I was spending a lot of time tackling the values they came home with from school. I didn't like things like evolution being taught as fact, for instance, but there were also the playground attitudes, the look-after-number-one, kick-any-one-who-is-down sort of thing I wanted to show them that they could have better values."

Family relationships, already good, have become closer. They have more time and more fun together, understand each other better, talk to each other more.

"When the kids were at school, they would ask us questions, and we wouldn't know whether our answers went over their heads or were too obvious. Now we're much more in tune with them."

Aren't there any drawbacks?

"My ironing doesn't get done," she says, without much hint of regret. "There's not much time for housework, but it will still be there when they've grown up. You get it done eventually.

Often the kids help, we work as a team: tidying up, vacuuming, hanging out the washing - after all, they're learning skills for life."

Paula and Barrie are not unusual as they seem, but one of a growing number of parents choosing to educate their children at home. These parents aren't concerned with turning their child into a mathematical genius, but feel school stifles children's creativity and independence.

Research by Grace Llewellyn, a former US middle-school teacher, suggests they may be right. Examining entries in the US *Current Biography Yearbook*, covering people prominent in their fields, she found that about one in five had dropped out of school, or had not had much formal schooling.

In her new book, *The Teenage Liberation Handbook*, Llewellyn lists various alumni from the school of life - William Blake, Charles Dickens, Henry Ford, George Gershwin, John Houston, Mozart, David Puttnam, to name but a few - and concludes that school actually inhibits rather than fosters the learning process.

Judith, 33, who lives with her husband Colin and two boys, would be the first to agree. "I went to pretty good

private schools, but didn't get much out of them. I was bored to tears and unhappy most of the time. I didn't want my children to go through the kind of things I went through."

Judith went to considerable lengths to keep her children out of school. Before converting their west London maisonette into flats, she got up before the boys to work in the family bakery, then spent all day with them before returning to baking after they had gone to bed.

Even now she has little time to herself. "I could do with a bit more," she admits. "People say: 'How can you bear having them around you all the time?' Generally it's not a problem, but sometimes, like any mother, I've had enough at the end of a long day."

Louis, nearly eight, and Rupert, nearly six, are confident and secure, happy to join in their Saturday music class.

"They are fearless around adults," says Judith. "They've not got that reverence for authority that school instils."

A local home-schooling club, where parents and children meet once a week, provides valuable social contact within a wide age-range - a more natural way to mix, she believes, than school, where children learn to despise those younger than themselves and live in fear of those older.

Like Paula, Judith finds that studying one-to-one means her children achieve a lot in a short time, leaving days free for other activities. "You soon realise that children just learn," she says. "You just facilitate that, answering questions and making it easier for them to find things out. Hopefully they won't consider the whole process as something horrible that leads to exams."

Bob and Pien feel their children should go to school eventually. "At a certain age they need to be with other children in bigger groups. Being at home is too limiting," Pien says.

Fortunately, the girls took to school "like ducks to water. They had no problems, educational or social. They are very

Pien, now chair of Education Otherwise, the home-schooling support group, could not reconcile herself to sending her daughter to school at the tender age of four. "It's far too early," she says. "If a child starts school and they're not ready for reading, all their creativity is channelled into that. They are stifled at school; they don't learn creativity in life."

Bob, an architect, believes home-schooling made his daughters more self-reliant. "They're more oriented towards learning when they want to learn, not so much seeing it as something forced," he says.

Bob and Pien feel their children should go to school eventually. "At a certain age they need to be with other children in bigger groups. Being at home is too limiting," Pien says.

Fortunately, the girls took to school "like ducks to water. They had no problems, educational or social. They are very

popular, very at ease with adults and other children".

The years together created a firm foundation for the family. Pien says: "We've got to know each other much better, and that closeness doesn't go away." She describes Anna, recently accepted at art college, as independent and mature for her age. "I'm confident she can make her own decisions, and she never seems to have the urge to rebel. If she wants to do something she simply discusses it."

Not many parents of teenagers can say that. Perhaps

my friend is right. Perhaps there really is no place like home.

● The *Teenage Liberation Handbook* will be published in August by Element Books (£5.99)

● *Education Otherwise*, PO Box 7420, London N9 9SG (0891 518303).

Ruth Gledhill hears a strong Methodist message in a service designed for young people

Follow your conscience, not the crowd



ON OUR WAY in, everyone was invited to take a stone. At the front, a banner spelt out SOW, for Sense of Worship. The church was full with teenagers and children, uniformly dressed in jeans, sweatshirts and trainers. I was the second oldest person there, and wondered if I was getting too old for church.

SOW, a contemporary service held each month at Hucclecote Methodist Church, Gloucester, had travelled to one of Methodism's foundation stones, Wesley's chapel in the City of London, for a service that coincided with the start of the Methodist Conference at Westminster. At Hucclecote, imaginative use of traffic lights, chocolates, a fountain and a mirror ball have helped attract a growing congregation to church over the past two years. We had no mirror balls but there were tiny, coloured spotlights and central to the service was a "stone ritual".

These services are rarely pre-ordained. Each month a planning

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SERMON: Homily-style dramas. ★★★
MUSIC: Modern worship songs. ★★★★
LITURGY: Combination of prayers, music, dance and drama. ★★★
SPIRITUAL HIGH: Godly, although slightly lacking in method. ★★★
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Tea and sandwiches. ★★★



Discussions at the Wesley Chapel

group, which includes a computer analyst, an ordained minister and a television producer, begins by sitting down with a blank sheet of paper, "brainstorming" ideas and then producing a service. For ours, the theme was "I need a hero". Wesley's life - birth, fast-track career, bigger cars and bigger houses, marriage to a wife he rarely saw. Finally, on retirement, he went "pop" and disappeared. The message was clear

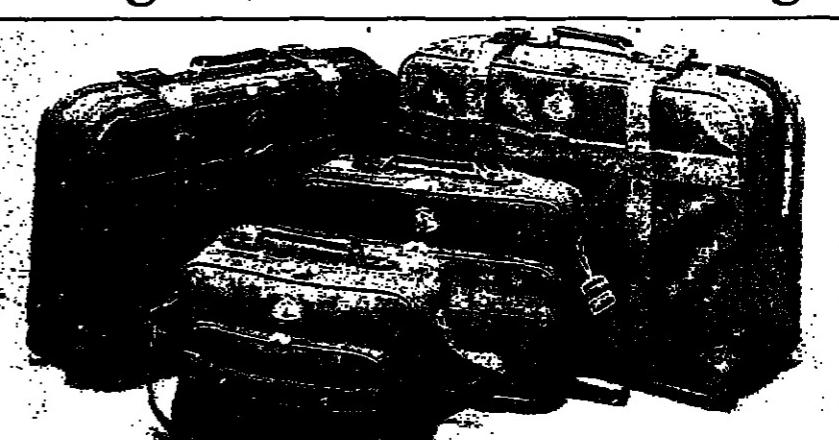
- materialism is wrong, don't strive for success, dare to be different - as if conformism is in itself a sin. I wondered what John Wesley, who opened this chapel in 1778 and who urged his followers to work hard and save hard, would have made of this. In other respects, however, the message was good, in urging the youngsters to resist peer group pressure to smoke, drink and take drugs. "We are tempted to follow the crowd, even when we know it is wrong and our conscience is a still, small voice," the worship leader said during prayers.

We were urged to contemplate our stones. "If you wish, you may place your stone at the foot of the cross as a sign that you take Jesus as your hero." Or, the leader said, we could take our burdens home with us. The youngsters laid them at the foot of the cross. The other adult there held on to his, and I clung tightly to mine. These rituals are a growing phenomenon in our churches, and as a result there is now a nice pile of stones outside my front door.

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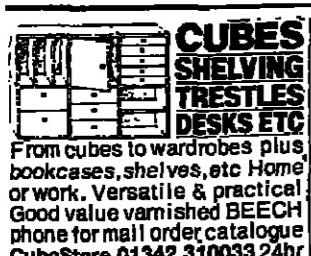
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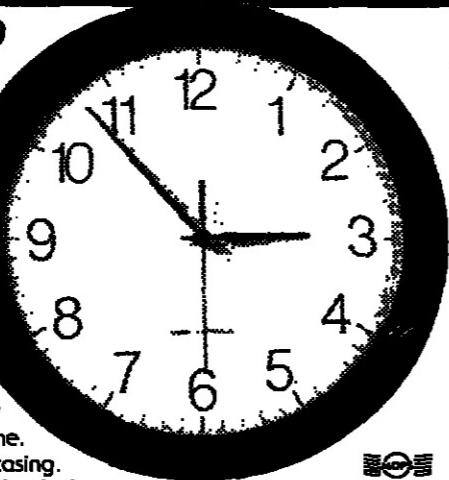
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5th

Alan Copps meets the youthful British experts competing with Honda to beat the world fuel-economy record

Teenage tyros on 4,000mpg drive

As the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, announced that he was increasing the duty on petrol, I was driving along the motorway in a Jaguar. I glanced at the fuel gauge and stopped at the next service station to top up. It swallowed 40 litres (8.5 gallons) of unleaded at a cost of £26, a saving of £1.60 on the price a few hours later, and enough fuel to travel around 200 miles.

Then I thought of the car I had just been looking at. That amount of fuel would have been sufficient to carry it 20,257 miles, that's from London to Beijing and back. But next week it will be competing against another vehicle capable of circling the equator (24,902 miles) on just 2½ gallons of petrol.

The car I had been examining is the EB2, which last year won the junior section of the Shell Mileage Marathon with an average of 2,302 miles per gallon. Its successor, with a home-made engine that ran for the first time this week, is expected double that.

But when the young engineers behind this project go into this year's marathon at Silverstone on Friday week, the seniors will include Team 120, a group of Honda's engineers who are the new record-holders at 9,427mpg and who will be aiming to break the 10,000mpg barrier.

We are talking here about extremes, about vehicles free of any of the constraints of passenger carrying, comfort, safety, speed and all the other factors that make our road cars return figures that are tiny fractions of those above. Faced with increasingly stringent European rules on emissions, Volkswagen is developing a car that will achieve 90mpg. But the most economical manufacturer's claim I could find from a current list of cars sold in Britain was of 76mpg, in out-of-town driving for a diesel engined Audi A4.

So how does a band of schoolchildren go about creating a car that does 4,000mpg? The EB stands for Equipe Bigenor, a ten-strong team who work in farm buildings around the home of their chief designer, Oliver Way, 17, near Petworth in Sussex. EB2 has been modified since its victory last year and has already achieved more than 4,000mpg in testing at the Goodwood racing circuit near by, where the Earl of March, a motorsport fanatic, has encouraged his young neighbours. It is based on a spaceframe chassis, has tiller steering, a carbon-fibre body

and uses a highly modified 50cc Honda moped engine, the favourite power unit of many amateur contestants.

But the team's latest development, EBS, is the most astonishing machine. It relies on a 30cc power unit they have built themselves, using machine tools that Oliver's father, Edward Way bought to maintain his own vintage racing cars.

This twin-spark, double overhead camshaft unit was machined from two solid blocks of aluminium and fitted with a modified Suzuki piston.

The biggest problem was fitting the cast-iron liner to the cylinder. "In the end we put the liner in the freezer and the block in the cooker," they fitted easily then," explains Oliver.

"I drew the original plans on paper, but to design the body we drew it out on the ground because it all depends on the size of the driver. We've extended EBS and now call it EBSA to fit a larger driver."

Jeremy Cooper, 15, the chief engineer for this car, won the junior technical award last year. He eagerly explains that the three-wheel layout shared by all the cars not only reduces friction but also avoids the need for a weighty and complex differential. They are all chain-driven.

The efforts of this team, whose youngest member, brother Jeremy Way, is 12, have attracted generous sponsorship. The bodyshell is made from a carbon-fibre composite which costs £80 a sheet. Adrian Reynard, whose racing company builds Indy-car chassis, gave them two sheets. Michelin gave them the tyres, and the Environment Agency a £1,000 grant.

But does the technology of vehicles like this percolate down to the cars we drive? Dr Graham Paul, of King's College London, has entered a car that has achieved 8,000mpg in testing. He is intent on breaking the British record of 7,591mpg set by the French Lycee La Solivette team in 1992. "It's a bit like Formula One. You can sometimes point to direct spin-offs like disc brakes or active suspension. But more often by going to extremes, by doing without all the compromises that road cars have to make, you can work backwards to achieve technology that can be applied."

He's been competing since 1979 and his latest car is based on carbon fibre and polystyrene construction and has a 28cc engine, developed through sponsorship with



The EBS's body shell, above, is moved into position. The EB2 last year won the junior section of the Shell Mileage Marathon, averaging 2,302mpg. Its successor, with a home-made engine, is expected to double that figure



The team designed their spaceframe vehicle chassis on the floor, around the driver

Oddest drive under the sun

Forget the mileage marathon and that old-fashioned business of pouring fuel in a tank, writes Alan Copps. Once it has started, this car, rapidly becoming familiar from Honda's advertising, consumes nothing at all.

The Dream Solar car holds the record for the 2,000-mile challenge for sun-powered machines, travelling from Darwin to Adelaide in Australia in 33.32 hours. It arrived in Britain last month to give a demonstration run at the Goodwood Festival of Speed.

Powered by the silicon cells that cover its body, it is driven by a 1.5kw electric motor. Power is stored in a heavy-duty battery pack for starting off, but once the car is under way the electricity generated by the cells is enough to keep it moving.

So what is it like to drive this car in the future? A brief test run outside The Times office this week supplied the answer: weird. Trying to get in to the Dream is challenge enough since there is hardly any room for legs between the motorcycle-style con-

A quick spin in Honda's solar record-breaker

trols and the shaped seat. The driving position is lying down and rear visibility is nil.

Once settled, the driver is in for an eerie experience. Switch on and twist the throttle and a faint whistling sound precedes a surprisingly smooth take-off. But try to steer and all kinds of strange creaking and groaning emanates from the body shell and the long tail. The streamlining is so tight that the wheels touch the carbon-fibre reinforced plastic bodywork and parts of it turn with the wheels.

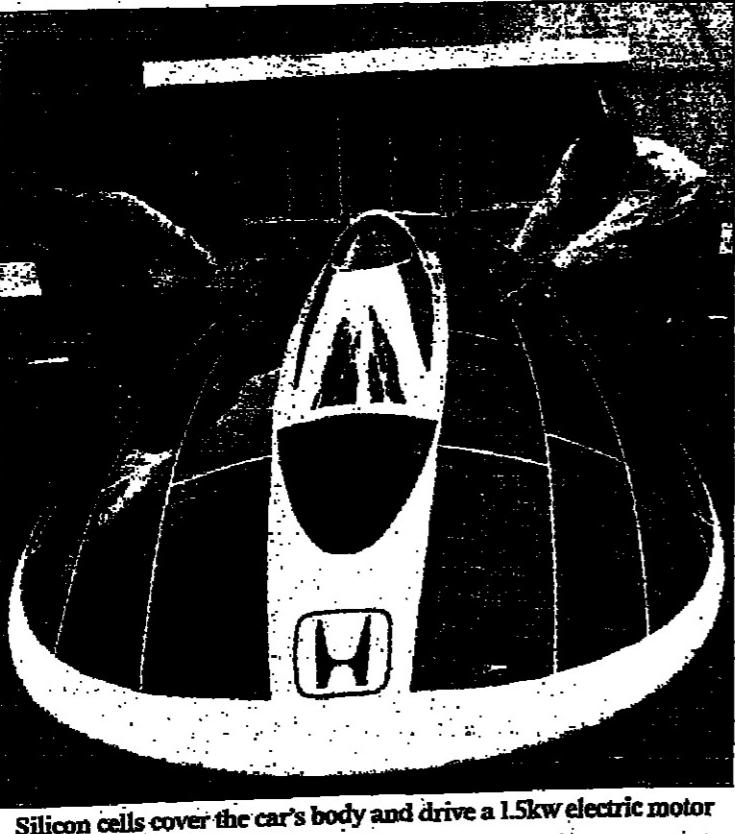
The turning circle seems huge and the noises are disconcerting, but it's light enough to be picked up and humped round a corner if stuck. The brake is a simple motorcycle lever and there is a digital speedometer on the handlebars.

That's it. There is no other equipment to speak of. Even on an overcast day in Wapping there was enough power to get round the car park. But it's a nerve-racking drive, constantly wondering what you might hit with that wonderful long tail. It must also have been stiffly hot in the enclosed cockpit on the way across Australia.

Astonishingly, the car has a maximum speed of 87mph and will cruise at 56mpg, but it is not road-legal in this country.

Constructed by a volunteer team of young engineers at its research and development centre in Tochigi, Japan, Honda says the technology of the Solar Dream will help in the production of future electric vehicles.

The company already markets an electric car in California, where strict environmental rules demand the sale of ultra-low-emission vehicles. But while the Dream will be used for demonstrations over the next few months, Honda has no plans at present to market an electric car in this country.



Silicon cells cover the car's body and drive a 1.5kw electric motor

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THISTLE HOTELS

The columnist who brought derision and contempt down upon cyclists is forced by fears over fading health and wealth to peddle a different line

Why I am taking to the saddle

Now that Gordon Brown has demonstrated that the difference between a Conservative Chancellor punishing the motorist and a Labour Chancellor punishing the motorist is the way that the sentence is pronounced with a different accent, we shall have to get on with finding our own ways to control the car without the car controlling us.

Therefore I shall now be pursuing a bicycle.

Hang on a minute, you are thinking. Whoa there, just a second, hold your horses. Is this not the fellow who, a few months ago, was ladling insults all over the militant cycle tendency and calling them a bunch of fascists? Can this Barnard be related to the Barnard who called cyclists selfish for blocking the streets of various

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

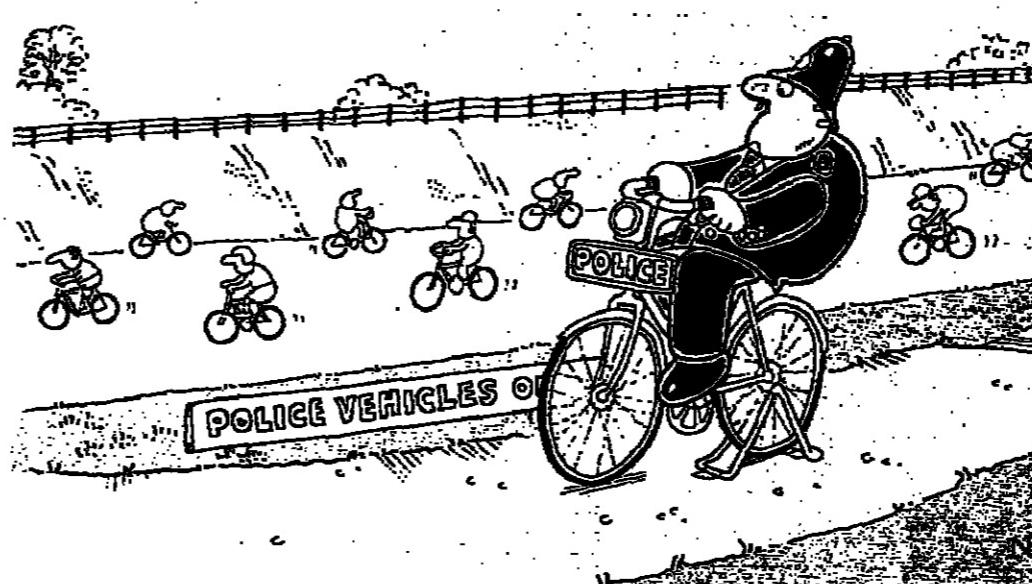
cities in order to protest against the motor car's habit of blocking the streets of various cities?

The very same guilty as charged. In mitigation, however, I must point out that I have no objection to the bike in principle. Cycling is not like hanging, it is not

a matter of conscience. There is a lot to be said for cycling; at least, I hope there is, or I shall not be a cyclist for long. My objection to some cyclists, as opposed to cycling *per se*, can best be summarised by an experience I had recently on a narrow country road.

A cyclist was in front of me. I slowed down and kept my distance. There was a verge, which the cyclist could have used to let me pass, but he did not do so. So I stayed behind him, knowing that a junction was imminent. At the junction, the cyclist stopped on the crown of the road so that I could not overtake.

The cyclist looked over his shoulder, presumably to ascertain the level of my blood pressure. He then pedalled across the junction, still in the middle of the road, and it was only at the next junction,



nearly a mile further on, that I managed to pass him. As I did so, he honoured me with a V-sign. A Churchill biographer on a cycling tour of the Cotswolds? Very likely.

Of course idiots like that are no more typical of cyclists than an idiot who would have driven the cyclist off the road to get past him would be typical of car drivers. I

dare say there are plenty of good things to be said for cycles and cyclists and I intend to find out what they are.

I cannot claim that I am entirely motivated by a desire to see if the bicycle really can work as an alternative, or at least a supplement, to a car. Having given up smoking I need some way to fight

off the flab and an alternative use for my hands, so why not a bicycle, albeit one that will hopefully have enough gears to make pedalling easy on the hamstrings? Just as long as it does not have an ashtray.

So yes, the bike as a recreational vehicle clearly has merits, but, whatever the anti-car lobby may say, the car remains the most

Hugh Hunston looks forward to a day when rescuers save you before trouble happens

High-tech revolution inspires RAC rally

He has guided vast cargo freighters across the world's oceans, commanded the 4th Battalion of Royal Green Jackets in Northern Ireland, and helped put Jaguar back on the road to international commercial and motor-racing success.

Not one to shirk challenges, Neil Johnson, the Royal Automobile Club's chief executive and general secretary, is in the advanced stages of rejuvenating a British motoring institution. With less emphasis on "Royal" and a tilt away from clubbiness, Johnson, a product of Sandhurst, is quick-marching the organisation towards a high-technology, 21st-century role as a "mobility provider".

Gleaning new purpose-built Ford Transit and Mercedes Vito patrol units are to be introduced, crammed full of state-of-the-art gizmos that interrogate and diagnose, rather than prod and fete under bonnets.

The move is accompanied by a dreamy, almost surreal, feel-good advertising wave, orchestrated by strategy director Jan Smith, with the soothing mantra: "We will not let our members go into the future empty-handed."

Smith's earlier, even more tangential, approach to selling Mazdas in Britain was not judged a roaring success within the industry, but Johnson insists this campaign is on target.

Cerebral, rather than mechanical in approach, it is central to the new philosophy of embracing a world where the client lives, works and plays in a world also containing buses, trains and bikes.

Johnson reasons: "Our core is still a motoring organisation and we still represent the motorist". But we have to recognise they are general members of the community, involved and concerned about the transport debate.

Johnson argues that the private car must fit into the general picture, or risk accelerating into its own obsolescence.

"I have to be pretty robust

'Our members are bike riders, and bus and train users'

about who this man or woman the motorist is. There are a couple of hundred Mr and Ms Toads who think the freedom of the road is only theirs to enjoy. Our members are pedestrians, bike riders, bus passengers, and train users. Our responsibility to them is not just on motoring but the wider remit of mobility."

Receptive to a rash of green transport initiatives, Johnson is nonetheless pragmatic, and will fight the corner of carborne transport, in this wider context. Not that he had an easy time trying to persuade the last Tory government that wholesale neglect of road repair programmes was a false economy. "Dealing with the last regime was like banging your head against a reinforced concrete wall. We kept telling them if you let your roof fall into disrepair you will ultimately need a new roof rather than fork out to replace a few slate. I trust the new team will see the benefits of the argument."

Adapting, or in Johnson's words, anticipating, is the key to the re-invented RAC. It is a policy based on two premises. The first is the long-term or even lifetime relationship, which he says is good business.

Retaining members pushes up renewal rates, and year-on-year loyalty in turn makes commercial sense. Recruiting, or re-recruiting is far more costly than keeping the customer satisfied.

Johnson also sees a parallel with the sales strategies of carmakers, both in Britain and Europe, where market saturation means the bulk of business involves replacement, rather than first-time buying.

Johnson sees the day dawning, arguably by the middle of the next decade, when the membership card, and related on-board electronic technology allow RAC members to "travel wherever and whenever they want to go".

The technology will be based on the increasingly commonplace in-car route-finding and congestion-avoidance systems. On top of this will be a



RAC won't represent the "Mr and Mrs Toads", but wants to put car use in context with transport users such as cyclists

The other plank in the RAC's plan involves technology, technology and technology, and an ever wider mobility remit.

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The technology will be based on the increasingly commonplace in-car route-finding and congestion-avoidance systems. On top of this will be a

welter of resources, including constant technical monitoring of the car's vital functions, access to hotel bookings, rail timetables, car park locations, restaurant reservations, concert tickets and even emergency dental appointments.

Three elements — a mobile phone, a global-positioning satellite (GPS) system and intelligent navigation aids — have to be in place to turn the idea into reality.

RAC vehicles are currently evaluating a GPS system and Johnson reckons that fitting a Ford Mondeo with the re-

quired equipment would cost around £2,000. But as the manufacturers and linked providers of various services join in, and the volume of users rises, costs will tumble. The RAC predicts that it will all be affordable by the end of the decade.

Johnson emphasises: "There will not be one big bang where it all comes together. We are already moving very fast and are now deep in discussions with carmakers and service providers to start pulling together some of those elements."

Not only are the manufacturers competing to put smart technology on board, but the RAC plans to supply carmakers and members with systems to put into existing cars.

There is no reason why we should not interrogate the car's technical diagnostic system from our control centre and diagnose a fault down the line," he says. "A driver could receive a call telling him or her: 'Your car is about to break down. Turn right in half a mile into the hotel car park and our patrol will sort it out while you have a cup of coffee.' This is probable — not just

possible. If the car could not be repaired immediately then we would book them a room or make onward travel arrangements."

As Johnson and his staff stitch together technological and commercial alliances to put the system in place, he denies that removing the crown from the RAC every means discarding royal connections.

"We remain uniquely proud of our royal association. The Queen is our patron and Prince Michael of Kent our president. We made the change because people are rightly uneasy about the crown's use for commercial purposes. The changes came after full consultation with the Palace. The crown is retained for the institution of the RAC and our motorsport division."

At least the chaps in blazers will get the chance to retain their crowning glory at the RAC-backed British Grand Prix at Silverstone this month. And in all probability the RAC's high-tech locate-and-rescue units will aid some of the 90,000 racegoers paying homage to the internal combustion engine that weekend.

triumphant invention of the transport industry so far. Any government that thinks we are voluntarily going to give up the privacy, convenience, comfort and freedom offered by the car in exchange for pedalling a bike or hanging about waiting for buses must be mad.

Anti-car fascists want me to give up the car and use public transport, but round my way there is none. There are no buses. Well, there is a bus, but I am not prepared to get into short trousers and start carrying a satchel in order to be allowed on it. Therefore my choice is between a bicycle and a horse. I tried a horse, but had great difficulty tying it to the back of the car so that I could take it on holiday.

So a bike it is. When I last owned a bike, it had three gears. According to a brochure before me, bicycles can now be bought that have more than 20 (and I see no sign of one with automatic transmission). Some very posh bikes also have front and rear suspension and springs under the saddle. These cost, er, £1,800. Blimey. I could buy a halfway decent car for that, so I shall be looking at the lower end of the market. Something unfashionable will do nicely.

Delays between Sherwin Arms and Priory roundabouts, A38 near Westford, Roadworks northbound between Canwell and Moneymore, Contraflow in operation.

A31 Leytonstone: Major roadworks with lane closures at A12 roundabout.

A4 Pall Mall: Roadworks on westbound carriageway at King Street and Waterloo Place.

A4 Piccadilly: Eastbound roadworks on Old Bond Street and Westbound at Brick Street, affecting eastbound traffic on to Hyde Park Corner and northbound on St James's Street.

A306 Hammersmith Bridge: Closed both ways to general traffic for structural works.

A406 Upper Edmonton: Major roadworks on Angel Road (North Circular) over Lee Valley viaduct.

SOUTH-EAST M40 Buckinghamshire: Long-term roadworks with contraflow between junctions 1a (M25) and 3 (Wyebridge East).

A127 Southend: Roadworks on Victoria Avenue at junction with Caernarfon Road.

A41 Watford: Lane closures eastbound on North Avenue from Hurton Bridge roundabout to Leavesden Green interchange.

M20 junction 4, West Malling, Kent: Long-term works for erection of traffic signals on the slip roads and roundabout. Various lane closures.

M40 Oxfordshire: Resurfacing work between Watlington and Oxford. Drivers heading to junction 8 of the M40 from Oxford are advised to use A40 and A418.

M25 junctions 8-10, Surrey: Restrictions and lane closures both ways between Reigate and A3.

SOUTH-WEST M5 junctions 18-19, Bristol: Contraflow across Avonmouth Bridge with 50mph limit. A28 near Bush, north of Gide, Restricing with temporary lights.

A37 Teignmouth: One lane closure both ways for roadworks.

A37 Sherton Mallet: Roadworks as junction with A361. Delays on all approaches.

MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA A1 Alcester: Warwickshire: Construction work with contraflow and lane closures.

A1 Peterborough: Works at Haddon interchange with repairs to the A1M.

A1074 Norwich: Narrow lanes eastbound on Dereham Road.

A52 Beeston: Major roadworks on Derby Road.

SCOTLAND Aberdeen: Anderson Drive reduced to one lane between Seafield Road roundabout and Queens Road.

A78 North Ayrshire: Major roadworks with contraflow between Acorn Turn and Haxham West.

A19 North Yorkshire: Major roadworks with two lanes each way between Thirsk and Tees and Billingham. Only one lane on some side roads. 50mph limit.

M1 West Yorkshire: Major roadworks continue around Leeds junction with lane closures and speed restrictions. Delays on M1, M621 and Dewsbury Road.

A1058 Tyne and Wear: Cradley bypass down to one lane each way. Diversions in operation.

WALES A484 Francis Wall, Teme, Herefordshire: Major roadworks.

A483 Aberdare closed due to roadworks between Town Bridge and Cwmbran Road.

A449 Monmouthshire: Roadworks between Llisk Junction and M4 junction 24 Newport. Expect long delays at times.

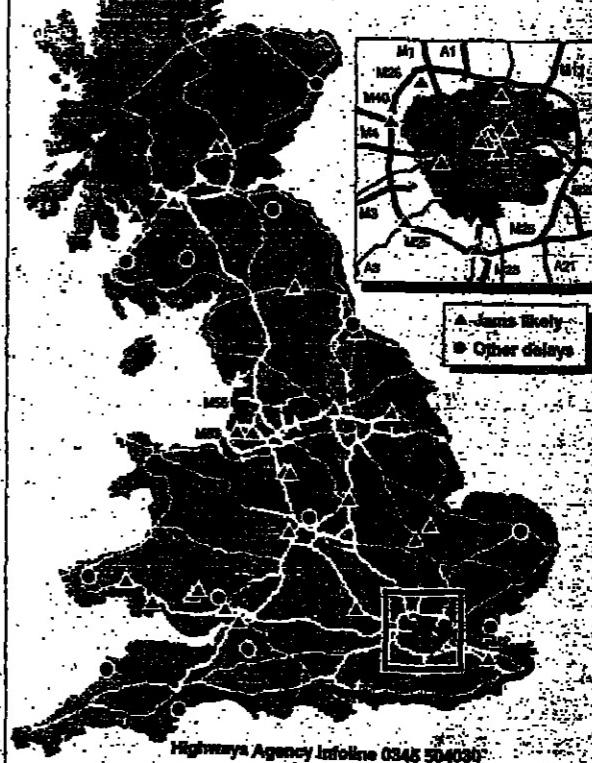
A463 Swanscombe: Contraflow and roadworks at the Fables Way docks between the Vale of Neath Road and Ebb Crescent.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

THE TROJAN BUBBLE CAR COMPANY ALSO BUILT McLAREN RACING CARS

WITH 14,000 bhp per tonne JAGUAR'S MOST POWERFUL MODEL IS ITS UNIPOWER XK8 HOT AIR BALLOON ...

RADIO RESCUE CELEBRATING ITS CENTENARY THIS YEAR, THE RAC EACH WEEK ATTENDS MORE THAN 50,000 BREAKDOWNS.



Highways Agency Helpline 0845 5940500

[Jaci in 1st]

Morag Preston joins the lucky *Times* competitors on a tough advanced course to improve their road skills



The cage, a tight cone box, proved a hard test of our drivers' manoeuvring skills...

ADVANCED DRIVING

■ ONCE you decide that you want to make your motoring safer by improving your driving skills, there are a number of routes that you can take. The first stop is the Institute of Advanced Motorists (0181-994 4403). ■ There are 206 groups running courses around the country. The number of members has reached 107,000. Initially, you join as an associated member for a year. Once you pass the Advanced Driving Test, you graduate to become a member. ■ Training sessions are taken in your own car on the road with an observer. Because observers are unpaid volunteers, booking a slot depends on their availability. Observers will first assess your driving ability, then work on eradicating any undesirable habits. Membership fees vary from group to group; in a bid to attract younger members, the Institute is offering a 10% reduction in membership fees for drivers under 25. ■ Drivers need to have held a car licence for three months before they are eligible to join. ■ The AA (0800 607080) also offers advanced driving tuition. Additional lessons for motorway driving are particularly popular. Costs vary from £13.50 to £17.50 for an hour's tuition. ■ Privilege Insurance quotation number: (0990 998800)



a task made tougher for Nicola Banks by her birthday party the previous night

Class toppers: Jaci and Ophelia

JACI GILROY, 31, a lecturer in holistic therapy from Bristol, won the reverse-steering section of the course, and shone both in the cage and on the off-road parts. She cut her own path in the 4x4 rather than follow the well-worn tracks. "I love driving, and am devoted to my Fiat Panda 4x4. The course made me appreciate how impressive ABS is. It was good to test how quickly you can stop."



Winners: Ophelia Weir, left, and Jaci Gilroy

Ophelia Weir, 33, a financial adviser from London, was the winner of the driver awareness training section, and says that her experiences behind the wheel of her Audi estate with two youngsters in the back must have paid off. "You have to concentrate more when you have kids in the back, which is harder when they're yelling. But I have always loved driving. The course was an incredible experience — seemingly driving like a lunatic while learning to be safer. It should be compulsory for all drivers once they've got experience."



Spotless: the time-warp sportsters

Vaughan
Freeman on a collector's dream: the last two unused 1970s MGBs

TWO of the very last MGB sportscars to be built at British Leyland's Abingdon plant have come to light in as-new condition, with each car having done only 50 miles.

The time-warp find is the stuff collectors drool over, especially when the cars concerned are MGBs, the last of which rolled off the production lines the best part of two decades ago.

The cars were bought as production of the MGB ended, and were whisked straight to a heated storage garage where they have lain ever since, pampered, polished, and serviced. Their engines started and regularly turned over.

The red MGB GT and its white time-warp partner, a Roadster convertible, have been put up for sale by the Leicestershire Brooklands Classic Car firm.

The two cars were not even registered when they were bought, but instead transported to the garage where their anonymous owner would cos-

set them for the best part of two decades by way of making an automotive investment.

The cars each cost just under £4,000 to buy brand new, and now they are up for sale with prices in the £10,000 to £18,000 range. Mark Geary, a partner in Brooklands, says:

"These two cars were among the 25 of the very last standard MGBs off the production line. They were bought in 1981, and the gentleman who bought them stored them away in a heated garage, where they were put up on blocks and looked after for the following 17 years, although they have never been used.

The cars are completely standard with 1800cc engines

with overdrive. The Roadster is a far more desirable car than the GT even though the GT is clearly a better car for everyday use. The fact is people want Roadsters.

"We have had a lot of interest even from as far afield as Japan. We are not in a rush however to sell them really. The cars were purposely put away in a garage, and the reason is that they were brought to keep up with a modern Fiesta.

Even so, the MGB's popularity is enduring and likely to stay that way says, Geary. "The MGB stays popular because a lot of them were built, which kept the price down initially, compared to say an Austin Healey or a TR6. Even today it means they are an affordable classic."

Its affordability and the numbers in which it was

produced made the MGB Britain's most successful ever sportscar, and more than half a million were built. The four-cylinder engine put out 95bhp, giving performance which, when the car was first launched in the early 1960s, was impressive. It had the added touch of wind-up windows, the first MG to have such a luxury.

After the MGB's demise the MG badge was stuck to purists' dismay, on Montegos and Maestros, though a genuine new MG, the MGF is now sold by Rover.

History disputes whether one of the tuned Morris cars sold by Morris Garage manager Cecil Kimber in the early 1920s was the first MG, or whether that honour rests with the Morris Cowley-based "Old Number One" of 1925.

There is no dispute though that Mr Kimber of Morris Garage (hence the initials) founded one of the most prolific of sports car companies, whose little machines inspired public loyalty and set numerous motorsport records.

As to the anonymous keeper of the two cars, Geary says only: "Part of the agreement we undertook when we bought the cars was not to tell anybody who originally bought them and has been storing them for all this time. I can say he is a mega-millionaire who employs around 7,000 people worldwide, and is in the process of disposing of his collection of 30 or 40 cars."



Immaculate MGB engine bay holds 1800cc motor — powerful in its day, but not now



Red MGB GT is the better car, though the white Roadster will fetch a higher price

ing at them is like going back in time."

The MGB might have been the rakish performance car of its day, but with a top speed of around 100mph, and a 0-60mph time of 12 or so seconds, it would be hard pushed to keep up with a modern Fiesta.

Even so, the MGB's popularity is enduring and likely to stay that way says, Geary. "The MGB stays popular because a lot of them were built, which kept the price down initially, compared to say an Austin Healey or a TR6. Even today it means they are an affordable classic."

Its affordability and the numbers in which it was

SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

CAR 97

Daily Star

5

£2 million tag for bike that killed the Arabian legend

Vaughan
Freeman on
the macabre
sale of
Lawrence's
beloved old
Brough SS100
motorcycle.

A 60-year-old motorcycle which sold for just £1 three decades ago is now up for sale with a price tag of £2 million and probably the most romantic possible history attached to it.

For when T. E. Lawrence, military genius, author, and speed fiend, was fatally injured in 1935, the motorbike he was riding was his beloved Brough Superior SS100, the seventh he had owned, an awesome 998cc machine capable of a then undreamt-of 100mph.

Now the motorbike, registration number GW 227S, which still has traces of accident damage on the front mudguard from Lawrence's fatal smash, is for sale. Its arrival on the market has sent ripples through the world not only of motorcycle enthusiasts, but also of collectors of Lawrence memorabilia.

The story behind the machine is extraordinary. Legend has it that Lawrence was riding the motorcycle near his Clouds Hill home, at Bovington in Dorset, when he braked hard to avoid two boys out cycling. He lost control and died, aged 47, six days later.

Some historians, however, are convinced that Lawrence may have been assassinated and was knocked off the machine by a black car said to have been tailing him at the time of the accident.

After the accident, the bike was sold back to the Brough Nottingham factory by Lawrence's brother and repaired. In 1963 it was bought by Portsmouth enthusiast Les Perrin, who paid just £1 for the tatty machine, which had been fixed to a sidecar.

Perrin spent a princely £19 restoring the V-twin bike, with a hand gearshift, so that he could get it to the Brough Superior summer club rally. Only when he finally received the original £1 basic bill from the vehicle licensing of-

fice, and saw the machine had been registered by T. E. Shaw the name Lawrence assumed after joining the RAF in 1922 — did he realise this had been Lawrence's bike.

A photograph showing the machine being taken away from the scene of the accident clearly showed its registration number, GW 227S, to confirm that not only was it one of Lawrence's bikes, but the one that he was killed on.

Perrin later sold the bike to its present owner, Hampshire collector John Weekly, in a deal which included around £5,000 as well as a Vincent Rapide motorcycle.

Now Weekly, who has owned the bike ever since, has put the machine on the market through his intermediary Jon Truss, who says: "Since the David Lean film, the whole world has been made aware of Lawrence of Arabia. It is a slice of British history. It is probably the most famous motorcycle in the world, and a major portion of the Lawrence legend."

Truss concedes that it is the machine's link with Lawrence, and its gruesome part in Lawrence's end, that makes it worth so much. It is the morbid side of things that attracts interest, as well as the fact that the bike is rideable and unique.

"The idea, though, that it might make up to £2 million at auction is quite preposterous. It seems highly unlikely it would fetch anything like that kind of money."

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Squint, and the two Jaguars' lines show a faint family likeness. The rides they offer are decades apart, though both provide their own thrills

New cat's learnt all the prize old Jaguar tricks

Alan Copps
compares the
latest XK8 with
one of the
greatest, the
XK 150 we are
giving away

To drive Jaguar's XK8 must be one of the most relaxing experiences in modern motoring. It has been rightly acclaimed as the model that dared to follow the E-Type's classic act and reclaim Jaguar's reputation for making great sporting cars.

But how does its character compare with the famous models that went before? This week *Times* readers have a chance to win an example of one of its most illustrious forebears, the XK 150 (see below), the model that immediately preceded the E-Type.

To get an impression of how the two cars compare I took a test drive in an XK8 convertible to meet Robin Seymour, who has been looking after the XK 150 that dates from 1959.

There are not many cars that can make a late rush-hour exit from East London and a half circuit of the M25 a pleasure, but the XK8 can. Its lines are truly head-turning, more than once people in stationary traffic wound down windows to ask questions about it. If you want one word to sum up the car it would be "civilised". It's very much a grand tourer rather than a sports car, comfort was obviously one of the designer's priorities.

The hood of the convertible is so solid that once in place it might just as well be a roof. Even at 70mph there's no hint of wind noise. The cabin is luxurious, typical Jaguar wood and leather, a steering column that automatically moves up when the door is opened, to give ample room for entry and exit and seats that can be adjusted in every direction. The only snag is that a tall driver needs to keep the height-adjustment low to ensure sufficient headroom.

Designed by a team that paid special attention to the needs of women drivers, it's a well-insulated car, both in terms of suspension and the noise it makes. Only the tyres can be heard at any legal speed in this country and even the biggest bump, a hump-backed bridge I found right in the middle of a sharp right-hand corner, failed to budge the car from its line.

On first acquaintance the new XK8 runs the risk of presenting itself as a "soft" car. It is, after all, based on the platform of its predecessor the XJS, which may have been Jaguar's best-selling sports car ever, but by the end of its 21-year life was beginning to feel thoroughly soggy against some of the opposition.

But with traction control for safe acceleration and anti-lock brakes, there's scope to use the extra performance of the XK8. It also has the famous jaguar J-gate, enabling the driver to override the automatic transmission and use it like a



XK 150 powerplant produces 250bhp; performance isn't far short of the new XK8

clutchless manual. Select the sport setting for the transmission and put the car through some testing curves and its sporting heritage rapidly becomes apparent. If in fully automatic mode, the big cat seems to stretch before it picks up speed, driven like this it pounces.

"A bit of a soft car," was Robin Seymour's first reaction to the XK8. Not surprising really, from a man who'd just stepped out of an XK 150. The walnut and leather was there in 1959, although the astonishing high-gloss finish was not.

But even before you start inspecting the details, the difference is apparent. The exhaust of the XK8's newly developed V8 engine is hardly audible at tickover and even when performance is demanded it builds only to a purpose-

ful but muted purr. The six-cylinders of the XK 150 emit a throaty rumble. It's a car that's ready to let you know it's coming.

In looks there is the vaguest family resemblance, a glance is enough to understand why the British show such enthusiasm for classic cars. It's instantly established as another head-turner. But there are no seatbelts and no fancy seat adjustment either. The driving position is with legs almost straight, the steering wheel feels huge — and heavy after the XK8's power assistance.

The manual gearchange needs a bit of getting used to, it's very easy to select reverse instead of first. But once you're away you know it: the car demands constant attention. If the modern one irons out the road, this one gets the driver

living every bump and dip, every turn and twist.

Taking great handfuls of that big steering wheel, there's no traction control to help here, it's very easy to hang the tail out round corners and great fun if you've got the confidence and space to do it.

What's astonishing is that with 250bhp going to the road through those handsome wire wheels, the performance of the XK 150, in its present "S" specification, doesn't fall that far short of the XK8. But by contrast with the new car it has a raw edge to everything it does. It feels faster.

In its day it was just as state-of-the-art as the XK8, exactly what you would want for a grand tour. I wouldn't want to endure driving around the M25 in it, but what a wonderful car to win.

JAGUAR XK8

Engine: 4-litre V8 producing 290bhp. Transmission: five-speed electronic automatic with manual override. Performance: Top speed, 154mph; 0-60mph in 6.7 secs.

Economy: Urban 15.9mpg; extra-urban 31.9mpg; combined cycle 23.3mpg.

Equipment: twin airbags, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, variable power-assisted steering, electrically operated seats, mirrors and hood.

Price: £56,625 on the road.

XK 150

Engine: 3.8-litre straight-six with triple SU carburetors producing 250bhp.

Transmission: Four-speed manual.

Performance: Top speed 136mph; 0-60mph in 7.3 seconds.

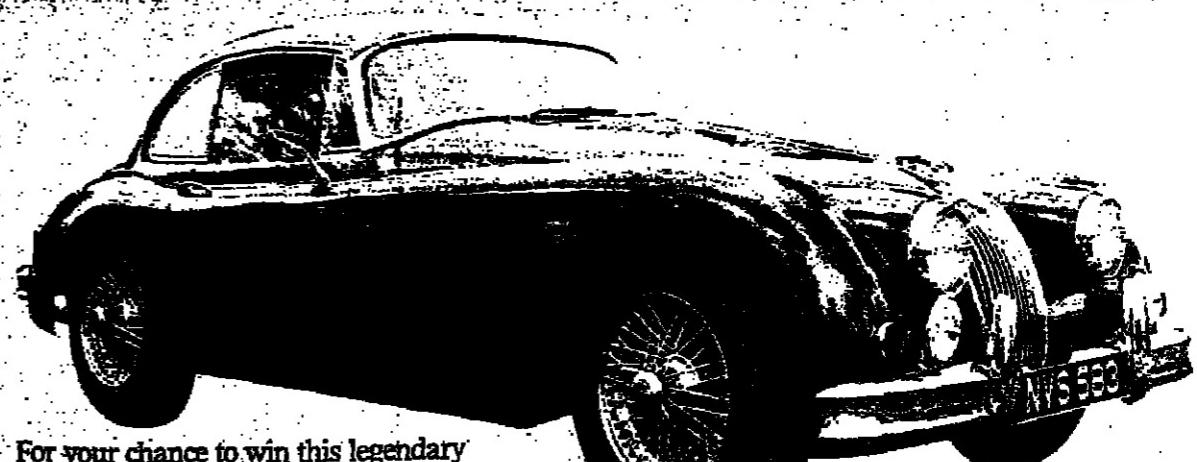
Economy: Around 20mpg at best.

Equipment: One of the first cars to have disc brakes as standard, wire wheels with knock-off hub caps, and ours has a massive D-type fuel filler and a boot badge boasting of Jaguar's five 1950s Le Mans wins.

Price: Now worth around £30,000.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

Win a Jaguar XK 150 classic worth £30,000



For your chance to win this legendary classic, call our competition hotline with your answer to this question:

How many times did Jaguar win Le Mans in the 1950s?

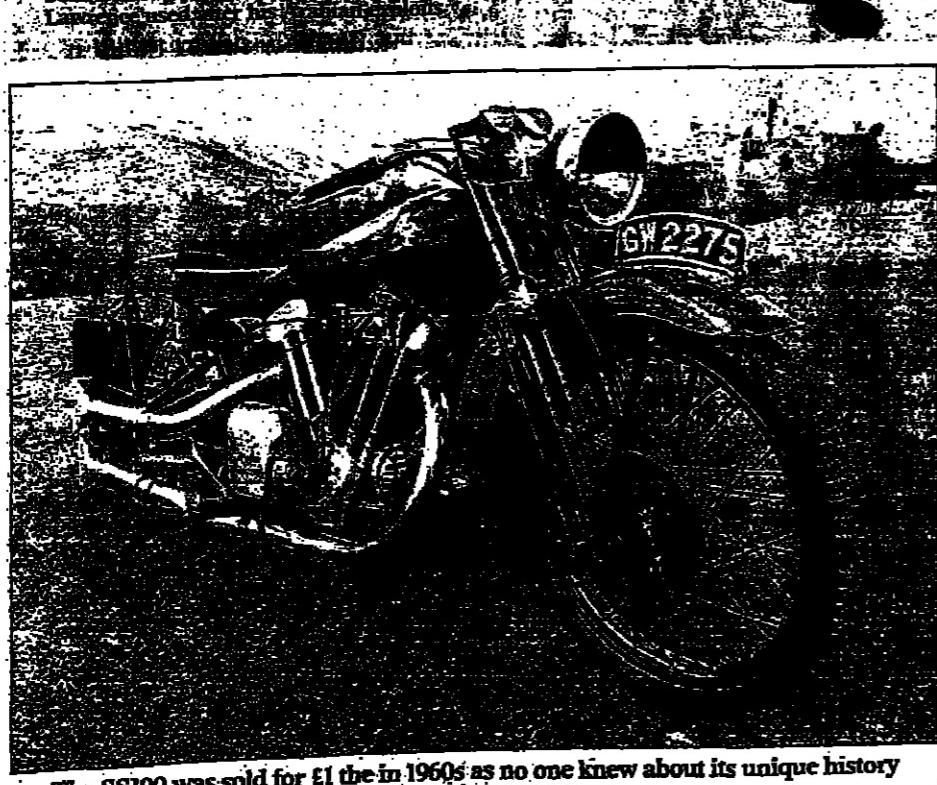
The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. The lines will be open until midnight on Saturday, July 12, 1997. Normal Times newspaper competition rules apply. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute.

Car kindly supplied by The Garage on the Green, Fulham, London, retailers of fine classic and modern vehicles. Enquiries: 0171-384 1100.

CALL OUR HOTLINE
0891 40 50 20

(EU and ROI +44 990 100 320)

CHANGING TIMES



The SS100 was sold for £1 in the 1960s as no one knew about its unique history

Motoring careers into the millennium

Vaughan Freeman starts our look at future car designs by asking why the thriving British industry is having so much trouble recruiting young blood

Doctors, police officers, lawyers, even journalists, all regularly feature in sexy television roles cashing in on the popular image of their glamorous careers and lifestyles.

Nobody, though, has yet made a six-part drama about a high-powered car company executive from Birmingham, or a mini-series about a pony-tailed designer or shop-floor car plant worker in Swindon.

The problem for a car industry desperate to recruit fresh blood, is that it is not seen as "sexy". While wannabes queue to become barristers, doctors and City brokers, the eyes of school-leavers and university graduates glaze over when the chance of a career in the automotive industry is offered.

That lack of small-screen interest reflects a wider disenchantment with the world of carmaking that is sending worrying signals to industry chiefs.

This is despite Britain's car industry being worth billions of pounds, with design studios that put their Milan, Turin and Detroit counterparts to shame. Those working in Britain to create the cars of tomorrow use high-tech computer back-up matched only by the aerospace and defence industries.

For those who choose a career in the car world, Walter Hasselkus, put in charge of Rover by parent BMW, has only praise: "From our British workforce we expect commitment, hard work, and enthusiasm, all of which are there." The problem, he says, is finding enough right-calibre people in the first place. "When it comes to manufacturing engineering, the British are not convinced, or as dedicated as young people are in Germany, especially in the universities.

"In Britain we need the training and the competitiveness. Unfortunately the old habits still seem in place. In

the old days aspiring people would travel to administer far-off parts of the Empire rather than go to the North East to work in engineering.

"That way of thinking is still here. In Britain, parents thinking of a career for their children think first of the professions, of them becoming a lawyer or a doctor or whatever. Becoming an engineer is an option that is way down.

"Germany it would be inconceivable for a lawyer, and I have nothing against lawyers, to be considered above a member of the BMW board."

Apart from receiving Government aid grants, one of the main reasons that car companies like Nissan, Toyota and Honda have set up shop in Britain is the reserve of engineering skills available.

It seems though is if that reservoir of skills, especially since they must now be matched to computer literacy, could be drying up. Korean manufacturer Daewoo's Worthing Technical Centre in West Sussex — the firm's biggest outside Korea — is recruiting around 250 new staff to take the total up to 1,100. But finding the right people is a headache for Daewoo's Engineering Managing Director Jim Mason.

"The aero industry is seen as 'sexy', but the motor industry

here to our Worthing Technical Centre they are amazed at the diversity of work that we do. They have no idea what goes into designing, building and creating a car."

To help bridge the gap,

Daewoo is working on plans to sponsor college students as well as whole university departments in an effort to extend its research and development capabilities.

Mason says: "We want to do projects for example, on how people bend their bodies, their knees and elbows, getting in and out of cars, as well as into the properties of different construction materials, and how they can be manufactured for volume production."

At least Mr Mason is doing his bit. Both his sons now work as engineers.

Rover's Walter Hasselkus



Selvaag with his bizarre vehicle, designed to carry older people in 40 years' time, when resources are scarce, but grey power is at its peak

Design prodigy creates retirement runabout

While it might look like a crash helmet for a housefly — in fact it is Per Ivar Selvaag's vision of the car of the future, writes Eve-Ann Prentiss

The award-winning student, now in his final year at the Royal College of Art, has been recruited as a designer for Rover after producing a new look for Ferrari, and dreaming up this futuristic vehicle.

The bizarre-looking design, with its space-age body mounted on what looks like a veteran car chassis, is aimed at being a transport of delight for elderly people. Selvaag was inspired by the thought that huge numbers of older people are likely to make up a large proportion of the population by the time he is a pensioner.

The extraordinary car is seen as half-taxi, half-private vehicle, catering for 40 years' time, when fossil

fuels are scarce and people are more likely to share modes of transport.

"The concept is for a car 40 years from now when I am 65," says the 25-year-old, a Korean-born Norwegian citizen. "I foresee that my age group will be much more influential than people of 65 are today. We will have more money and influence the clothes people wear and we will command greater respect from the young. I don't want to be seen as someone less able than others."

His car of the future would be able to carry four people, including one in a wheelchair, and there would be (almost) standing room only.

"You will stand up more than you will sit down in it," says Selvaag.

"You sort of perch in it and take more weight on your feet than on your bum." The car, with side-opening doors, would probably be powered by recycled engines and be able to use several forms of fuel.

Selvaag, who gained a BA in transport design at Coventry before moving to the Royal College of Art last month won the £1,000 Triplex Prize for the best final-year vehicle design project. Last year, he won the Citroën Car for the Next Millennium award.

Mike Fallon, of Pilkington glass,

which sponsors the Triplex Prize, says: "Cars are looking ever sexier these days and a prerequisite is vehicle designers with energy, vision and originality."

However, Selvaag knows his design is unlikely to become reality in this form. "This is not something feasible for today," he says. "When I am 65 this design will just be a memory, but it shows the manufacturers what you think about car design."

As a graduate of the RCA's transportation design course, Selvaag joins a network of British-trained staff who feature in the studios of almost every major carmaker worldwide. Ken Greenley, professor of vehicle design, has credits which include the Bentley Azure, the Aston Martin Virage and more recently, the Korean-made Ssangyong Musso off-roader.

Amazing glazing: screen history

Brilliant sun has been beating down on your parked car. You open the door. Time was when you were met by a furnace blast. Not now. Sweat awakens you into the cool interior.

You drive off. Essential information gleams in the screen in your line of sight. No longer do you read instruments on the fascia. You are held up at traffic lights and a lout with an eye on your briefcase and a half-brick in his hand batters at your side window. The brick bounces off.

Rainwater from a summer downpour pours off the screen without distorting your view, and any excess is scooped off by automatic wipers. Your screen is heated, so no misting occurs.

You drive into fog, but infrared images of what lies ahead appear mirrored in the screen. You are experiencing automotive glass in the first decade of the new millennium.

None of this is fanciful. Car glass is poised to do far more for the motorists than just provide vision and protection against the elements. Glass is becoming intelligent.

Keeping cool has presented European carmakers with a special problem. Other parts of the world with high heat and humidity characteristics appear prepared to continue with conventional air conditioning, but air conditioning

drinks fuel and boosts exhaust emissions, and EU fuel-efficiency objectives have been set at over 90mpg. Glass will play a major role in the solution.

Ideal car glass would allow no ultraviolet or infra-red radiation to reach the interior while meeting the legal requirement for light transmission — 75 per cent for European windshields. The laws of physics preclude this

combination, so the glazing designer must work towards the best compromise. His tools are tinting and coating.

About ten years ago Libbey-Owens-Ford, the US subsidiary of UK-based Pilkington Group, launched a green-tinted glass which reduced ultraviolet and allowed through only 44 per cent of infra-red radiation.

This technology is widely used in today's MPVs and

sports utilities, and is preferred to more expensive coatings. In its darkest form it has been most spectacularly adopted for the huge wrap-around rear screen of the Vauxhall Tigra.

Inside the car, coatings can cut reflections by up to 50 per cent. For outside surfaces, glass that hates rainwater — hydrophobic or slick glass — is likely to become a familiar feature within the next five years, according to Pilkington. The exterior surface is coated

with a chemically bonded silicon-based compound that rejects water, so rain droplets are blown away in the airstream, carrying dissolved dirt with them.

Daimler-Benz is testing such glass, and Toyota has some models on sale in Japan with slick side glass.

The possibility of projecting information on to the windscreen in the driver's sightline, as used in military aircraft, is now close to reality.

For drivers. At the NEC in November, Jaguar will show a head-up display system developed in collaboration with Pilkington.

There is also a strong safety potential — versions under investigation include the use of infra-red cameras to enhance

the driver's vision at night and in fog. Head-up glazing with vision enhancement is expected to make its first production appearance on an American truck in about two years.

Improved security is high on the glass-supplier's agenda.

No matter how sophisticated the locking or alarm system on a car, there is little the owner can do to combat side-window break-ins.

Car-makers are looking to laminated glass, which takes

far longer to penetrate and

would add only about £100 to the total cost of the car. Within ten years it will be virtually standard, says Pilkington.

Car designer and glass expert must now work together

virtually from the first graphics

on the computer-aided-

design terminal.

Glass is getting cleverer and shapelier,

and the glass supplier has

become a key member of the

creative team from the very

beginning of the design

process.

Carmakers may now translate motor-show concept cars

with dramatic glass styling

into volume manufacture.

And it can be done swiftly — the

Vauxhall Tigra is a case in

point: since it was exhibited,

show visitors were asked if

they liked it, and their

favourable response took it

swiftly into production. With

out recent glazing advances

this would not have been

possible.

Audi out for new talents

Pay £90 for a ticket to this month's Audi Foundation ball in Bath and you could be doing your bit to further home-grown design talent, writes Russell Hayes.

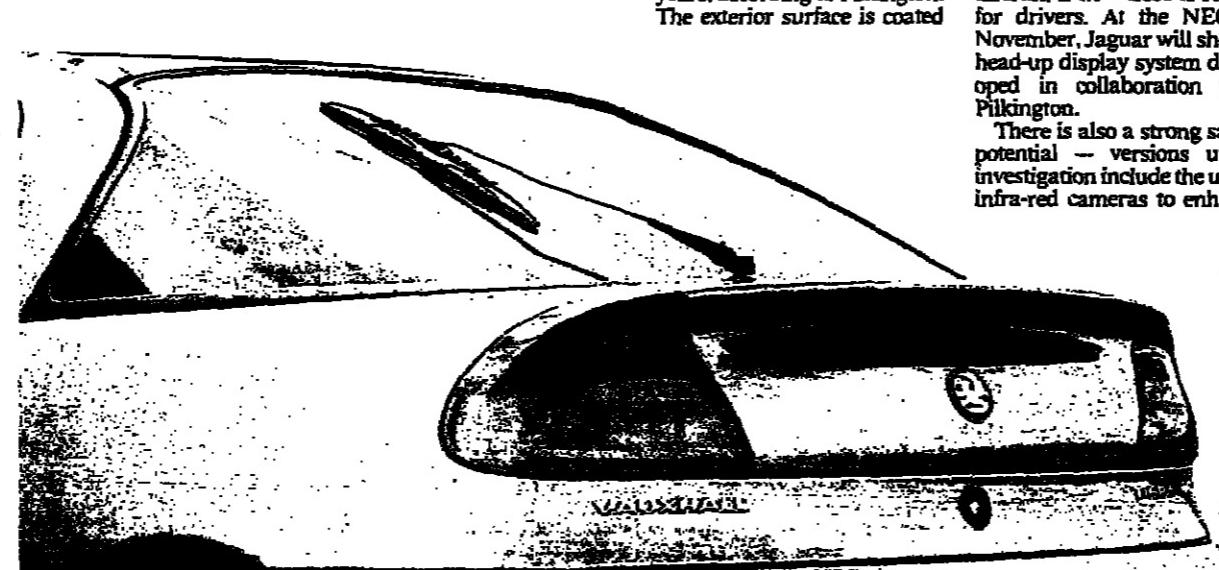
The English importer of the prestige brand is launching a non-profit organisation to support budding designers between the ages of 18 and 25. Anyone can apply, not just students. The call has already gone out for a fund manager.

"The aims of the Foundation reflect the Audi culture, where ideas are a precious commodity," the importer says.

The number of awards available has yet to be announced, but in the first year, students will receive financial support as long as their ideas can demonstrate something of commercial value or benefit, wherever they study or work.

And it's not just about cars. Last year Audi was a sponsor of the BBC Design Award, which was won by a wind-up radio for the Third World.

"It's really to encourage youth," said a spokeswoman. "We are known for our design and, though this may sound corny, we want to give something back." A job with Audi is not, however, necessarily on the cards.



Darkly tinted glass has been spectacularly adopted for the huge wrap-around rear screen of the Vauxhall Tigra

Going like the glaziers

The design of the tailgate of the three-door Fiat Bravo posed a typical set of problems for the glass industry. There was a 30-month schedule for Pilkington's Italian subsidiary, SIV, to cooperate with Fiat to produce the design and then to install deep-bend equipment developed in Britain. Then robots had to be made to handle and fix the glass on the production lines at Cassino and Rivalta.

During the development stages, prototypes and samples were turned round more rapidly than ever before and important modifications were accomplished in as little as eight weeks, says SIV's top Fiat link, Michele Luzzi.

Thus, he says, the company was able to prove it could act fast — essential in an industry that may soon be taking only two years to get cars from the drawing board to the showroom.

"A powerful combination of highly

advanced technologies enabled us to create the result, in which the glass almost appears to be suspended above the Bravo's body, and where the sophisticated flush-glazing system perfectly matches current styling requirements.

"Press-bending at the frontiers of technology allowed us to achieve the very complex shapes and curvatures with total control of precision while maintaining the highest optical quality," says Luzzi.

Another challenge in glass was set by the design of the current Range Rover. It became necessary to find a way to engineer a windscreens which went beyond the existing capabilities of the glass

manufacturing process. Range Rover wanted curves that were twice as tight as conventional screens.

"The winged screen, with its increased outer edge curvature, was the only way to solve the complex style problem and achieve the required smooth blending of front screen and side glazing," says Land Rover design manager George Thomson.

Conventional laminated screens are shaped by the sag-bending technique in which a pair of flat glass sheets are supported around their periphery and heated to the point where gravity forms them into the required shape — good for optical quality but limited for complexity of shape.

So Pilkington laboratories developed a new forming technique in which gravity was assisted by a die to push the glass to its final shape, allowing precise control of edge shape, cross-curvature and the tighter radius demanded by the stylist.



Pilkington's Italian subsidiary produced samples for the Fiat Bravo in record time

BRIEFS

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MARKETED as "the on-road car with an off-road look", the new Volvo V70 Cross Country is powered by the same 2.5-litre, five-cylinder, light pressure turbo engine as the V70 AWD model. At a cost of around £30,000, it will be available in the UK from September in five-speed manual or four-speed electronic automatic models.

PEUGEOT has realigned its UK prices on key models within its 405 saloon and estate car ranges, dropping the 2-litre LX petrol price to that of the 1.8-litre and reducing the "premium" for air-conditioning on the LX, GLX, and SRI models.

HONDA is marketing the Civic 1.5i and 1.5i LS models as among the most fuel-efficient cars in their class, up to 30 per cent more economical than the Ford Escort 1.4 or the Vauxhall Astra 1.3i 16v. The Civics are also being promoted as having one of the most powerful engines in its class; the variable valve timing and lift by electronic control (VTEC) system allows a lean petrol/air mixture to be burnt during steady-speed driving conditions.

WORK has begun on the largest solar power installation at any manufacturing site in Europe and the first of its kind in any automotive plant in the world, at Ford's Bridgend Engine Plant in South Wales.

Street stars act to save young lives

Helen Mound on how a schools' theatre group is trying to get crucial road-safety messages across to a new generation

The title might sound like the oldest joke in the playground, but when children are invited to see *Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?* what they get is a play with a deadly serious message.

Presented by the StopWatch Theatre Company, it's the longest running production in a series aimed at getting the road-safety message across, especially to children who may spend much of their lives travelling by car; they are uncertain of the basic rules of the road for pedestrians.

A lot of education is campaigned with the emphasis on "don't do this" or "you mustn't do that," says Adrian New of StopWatch.

"Our plays aim to look at why children want to take risks in the first place. We address the reasons why stealing a car or playing chicken is considered a boost to their image. It's like concentrating on the causes rather than the symptoms."

StopWatch was launched seven years ago by New and his partner Steven Pearce. "We concentrate on issues that are important to youngsters like road safety, and bullying, and more recently problems such as joy riding and drugs."

Written by Mark Wheeler, a drama teacher from Southampton, *Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road?* is aimed at nine to 12-year-olds and sets out to address the dangers to young cyclists. Around a third of Britain's schoolchildren are believed to ride bicycles and only 18 per cent claim to wear a cycle helmet. In Cambridge —

**We look
at why
children
think
stealing a
car will
boost their
image'**

iters on roads and have introduced Theatre in Education as a way of teaching children road safety.

StopWatch, based in Southampton, is one of a handful of Theatre in Education companies around the country that county councils are booking as part of the national curriculum's Personal and Social Education section.

Road safety officers believe the main problem is that children are no longer learning good road safety habits from a young age because they aren't brought up to walk to and from places — most of them travel by car instead. As a result, many are reaching their teens with little or no road sense.

Adrian New agrees: "Young children these days are gen-



StopWatch Theatre actors are all professionals, but also are interested in working with children — they follow the plays with workshops

inly no good at stopping at the kerb and looking. Because they rarely walk anywhere with their parents, they haven't developed instinctive road safety habits and they don't seem to understand why they should."

Plays such as *Too Much Punch and Judy*, tackling the effects of drink driving, and *DriveTime*, about joy riding and car theft, are aimed at encouraging 14 to 16-year-olds to be more responsible motorists.

"These are two very important issues worth teaching children at a pre-driver age," says New. "We know there is a great deal of image, peer pressure, even parental habits behind the wheel, that affect youngsters when they first experience cars. Our plays try to explode the myth that dangerous and illegal behaviour will boost their image, and make children think harder about the consequences of their actions."

Each play tours the country for up to 15 weeks at a time.

There are normally four actors in the cast, performing two 40-minute shows a day. Each show is followed by a workshop.

"Although we use professional actors and actresses, most are experienced in Theatre in Education and working with children," explains New.

"They like to work directly with the audience and see the reactions from their work."

Why Did the Chicken Cross the Road? is the story of two mothers and two lively 13-

year-old boys, one afraid he'll be laughed at for wearing a cycle helmet, the other suffering peer pressure to play chicken; the latter is eventually hit and killed by a car. The workshop then discusses the reasons and the effects of the two boys' actions.

The children at Coleridge Community College in Cambridge were keen to show they'd got the message, acting out the heartache the boys had caused their loved ones.

Charlie Farrier, actor and

tour manager, admits keeping the young audiences' attention is hard work. "But we try to talk and think like them when we act to be accepted, and it works." It works so well that some children ask the actors what school they attend.

The Department of Transport claims Britain's child road-safety record is one of the best in Europe. In the last ten years, the number of child deaths on the roads has declined 52 per cent and serious injuries by 37 per cent.

PORSCHE

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Just in time

WEEKEND · SATURDAY JULY 5 1997

country life - 13

Mowers have their work cut out

Readers' letters this month touch on scythes, log cabins and spotting rural folk in town

Never let it be said that this column is not at the cutting-edge. At my nearest fair the art of scything might be a thing of the past you were quick to cut the feet from under me. Hundreds of people demanded to take part in my scything competition. We have enough willing scythers to cause concern to the motorised grass-cutting industry.

One word of apology. Ted Ham of Chelmsford, Essex, writes:

Scything, really? The tool is a scythe, but it is used to mow, and the user is a mower. Have you not heard of pubs called the Barley Mow or songs like Ten Men Went to Mow?

Ted is right, but if we were to alter the title of our challenge to the Grand Mowing Match, I fear some younger entrants might turn up with a Qualcast, which is not the idea. Instead, we are trying to preserve a skill which I thought was on the decline.

Far from it. David Cooper of Birchington, Kent, a nature reserve manager, rebukes me for not being aware of the practices of conservation organisations. He tells me scythes are in wide use on his reserve because:

1. Health and safety demands that heavy-duty power tools are not used when one is working alone. 2. The safety gear one has to wear when using this machinery is unbearably hot on even a mild day. 3. I prefer to avoid, wherever possible, polluting the countryside with fumes and noise.

All good points. And on the last one, I bet Brian Rennison of Piddington, Dorset, wishes he had Mr Cooper as a neighbour. He writes:

Petrol-driven strimmers have been the bane of my retirement to a supposedly quiet cottage in the heart of rural Dorset. Every year we hear the first stridulations around March 17 and they continue until late September. Somewhere within earshot almost every hour of every fine day, someone strains. As far as engine noise goes, we're far worse off than we had been in car-polluted Surrey because the snarl of the strimmer's engine is more intrusive than traffic noise.



Crofters harvesting cereal crops by hand in the Hebrides during the Fifties. Far from being a thing of the past, scythes are still used and have many supporters

Finally on this subject, a letter from a cunning canon, Peter Woodhead, of St Peter's Church, Brackley, writes:

If anyone wants an area in which to practise, there is a large churchyard here, a part of it without gravestones; and he or she is very welcome to have a go.

Those who have offered themselves as contestants can expect to hear from me within a few weeks.

Having brought the scythe to the nation's attention and revealed that our underlying love for it is still alive, I must report that so far I have failed to do the same for the log cabin which I suggested, not entirely seriously, might form an ecologically and visually acceptable solution to the ever-existent problem of rural housing.

Having stated my case, I asked for three reasons why not. Sheila Smallshaw writes:

We have just spent 2½ years living in a log house on the Isle of Mull, so I certainly write from experience. It was not well insulated so heating was not cheap. During heavy rain and wind it leaked so that water dribbled down interior walls. It was not maintenance-free as the exterior needed regular treatment with Rentokil. Are these the three good reasons you need?

Possibly, although you may have been unlucky. I cannot believe all those Scandinavian log-house dwellers live with drippings all winter. Mr C.S. Wall, of Alvaston, Derbyshire, writes:

What is needed is a complete reversal of the method whereby high-rise blocks have been built in urban areas, and sprawling individual units have been built in rural areas: If houses (instead of high-rise) were built in towns, this would do away with the concrete

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

jungles and the problems associated with them.

If one-off high-rise buildings were built in the countryside, this would give people cheaper, more affordable housing without taking up vast areas of land. It shouldn't be beyond the capability of some enterprising architect to design an environmentally acceptable tall

building. After all, large sprawling buildings, such as Chatsworth House, are a perfectly acceptable sight — why not a single, properly designed, high-rise building?

I offer you Mr Wall's thoughts out of a desire to see the look on the faces of conservationists when they read it, and to invite any architect to redraw Chatsworth in the same proportions as Canary Wharf.

Last month, in your letters, we were offered ways in which townsfolk could be recognised in the country. One positive clue was that they climb over the wrong end of a gate. A perplexed Miss Dex of Cambridge, writes:

Which is the right end of the gate to climb over, and why not climb over the middle?

Shall you tell her, or shall I? Mr G.P. Boileau, of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, writes with the definite

guide to spotting country folk in an urban setting:

They wear badly fitting clothing, and generally look a mess. They carry the truly rural about their person, such that it smells awful.

They like to prop up the bar and shout at one another even when they stand next to each other. They bring their animals — dogs, pigs, sheep, goats — into the tavern where they feed them the same food and ale that they consume.

They constantly talk about the unfair treatment they get from the government, the public, the weather, their wives, and nature; and claim that we, the public, don't understand them. In other words, they are a collection of ordinary, miserable sods, but we love them.

Country dwellers might consider that as the first round in the contest, I look forward to more letters.

I WAS IN a lane in Cambridgeshire when a linnet flew over my head and landed on the tip of a dead branch at the top of an ash tree. The sun fell directly on it, and its crimson breast-patches and forehead glowed vividly. The bird was the same thickness as the branch and looked just like a fiery tip to it. Then it started singing loudly — that tinkling, whispering, formless song that might be a music made by the wind.

Another linnet flew up to the tree and the first bird chased it briefly, then returned to its perch. The other bird settled lower down on the other side of the tree and I could see it was also a male, with crimson on the head and breast, but with the colour much duller, and a much more worn look.

Then four more linnets flew in, and arranged themselves on twigs under the second male. They were all young birds, without the red and with more streaky plumage. They were fairly obviously the family of the second male, who had probably lost his shine bringing them up!

They sat there very contentedly, while the colourful male went on singing. He may have been an unmated bird, while the mother of the family was probably sitting on the eggs of a second brood in a hedge nearby. Linnets are sociable birds and this little group reminded me of a quiet family relaxing in the garden, with a noisy, easy-going neighbour.

DERWENT MAY

• What's about *Binders* — Watch for male ducks moulting into their dull 'eclipse' plumage. *Twitchers* — male black-headed bunting, Capel Fleet, Kent; female petrel, Norfolk; red-footed falcon, Merton, Oxfordshire. *Birdline* 0891 702222; 40p a min cheap rate, 50p at other times.

PETER BROWN



Linnets are sociable birds

At peace with a green burial

Carl Evans on a popular alternative to cemeteries and crematoriums

Jill Tattersall buried her mother in a meadow on a farm while sheep and cattle grazed in adjoining fields. A Hawthorn tree marks the spot, but there is no headstone.

That was two years ago and many more graves have since been dug, trees planted and bird boxes erected. A pond is planned, and one day the meadow will become not only a woodland nature reserve but also a "green burial site" an alternative to cemeteries and churchyards.

The days of marble tombs, concrete crosses and headstones may be numbered. Green burials are the fastest growing environmental movement in the UK," says Nicholas Albery, a founder of the Natural Death Centre, a

London-based charity. "In 1993 there was one site, now there are 58 and they are more than doubling each year."

With 650,000 deaths in Britain each year there is a never-ending need for land in which to bury the deceased. Cemeteries are filling fast, taking space which could be used for recreational purposes and offering little cover for wildlife, say green burial supporters. More than 400,000 people are cremated, causing air pollution, while wooden coffins are made at cost to the trees. Crumpling headstones, some centuries old, are neglected, often serving little purpose other than for local historians.

Now proponents of green burial sites are extolling the message that the land should be for the living, and that



Arthur and Jill Tattersall planted a tree at Gisela's burial

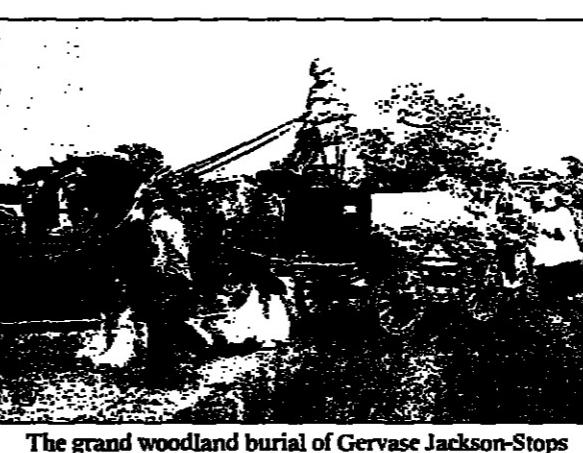
woodland "cemeteries" free of gravestones, but offering wildlife and plant habitats, are the future. They also claim such woodland burial sites, places in which to wander and enjoy the annual nature cycle, offer therapeutic healing for the bereaved.

The Natural Death Centre, which formed the Association of Nature Reserve Burial Grounds, was set up in 1991 by Mr Albery, and two other psychotherapists. Research had shown that nine out of ten people preferred to die at home and the charity's initial aim was to help families

looking after a terminally ill or elderly person.

It was then found that some bereaved families gained comfort from helping with funeral arrangements. While the majority assume professional undertakers are needed to tie up the loose ends when someone dies, the NDC and other organisations discovered it was far simpler. A death certificate, issued by a doctor or hospital, is taken by the bereaved to the registrar and the body can be buried almost anywhere.

Woodland burials just seemed to solve so many



The grand woodland burial of Gervase Jackson-Stops

This customer was Gervase Jackson-Stops, once architectural adviser to the National Trust.

About 65 people have been buried at Greenhaven. In Yorkshire, the Harrogate-based AB Wildlife Trust has acquired Kate's Fell, an area of woodland and pasture within Brimham Rocks. Because it is a site of special scientific interest, planning permission has been granted for only 25 graves. John Bradford, the site organiser and a social worker, wants to sell the plots to buy more land for green burials.

Farmers, wildlife trusts and landowners are establishing sites. The East Devon District Council offers panoramic views over the sea at its Seaton green burial site. Graves, which in London can cost more than £1,000 because of land prices, are just £57 plus digging.

In Christchurch, Dorset, a site run by Mike Hedger has been used for 100 burials and 100 more have been pre-booked.

Planting the tree lets no one off the grave," wrote Philip Larkin in his poem *Aubade*, and while most people prefer not to think about such matters, pre-booking a burial plot guarantees a rural location.

Arthur Tattersall has paid for a plot at Greenhaven next to his wife Gisela, who died two years ago, aged 82. His daughter Jill, from Newark, Nottinghamshire, says: "My mother was green-minded, loved gardening, nature and walking in the countryside and hated the vulgarity of a conventional funeral. As she got older she said she didn't want any fuss and wanted to be buried in a cardboard box."

Having spoken to Greenhaven, the Tattersalls decided on a simple funeral, with no religious service, but the opportunity to bury Gisela themselves and say their own thoughts by the grave. A cardboard coffin was used and they planted wild flowers as well as the hawthorn tree.

"Planting the tree was an enormous comfort to us," Ms Tattersall says. "We're not grave-visiting people and I would have felt very uncomfortable with a conventional grave and headstone. The tree represents something that goes on living."

• The New Natural Death Handbook, £11.65 inc p&p, from the Natural Death Centre, 20 Heber Road, London NW2 2AA.

• AB Wildlife Trust, 7 Knut Road, Harrogate HG1 3EF.

ON THE SPOT: EBBERSTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Rural recommendations

The place: St Mary's churchyard, Ebberston.

The view: A sweeping panorama of the Vale of Pickering, bounded by the Yorkshire Wolds on the southern horizon.

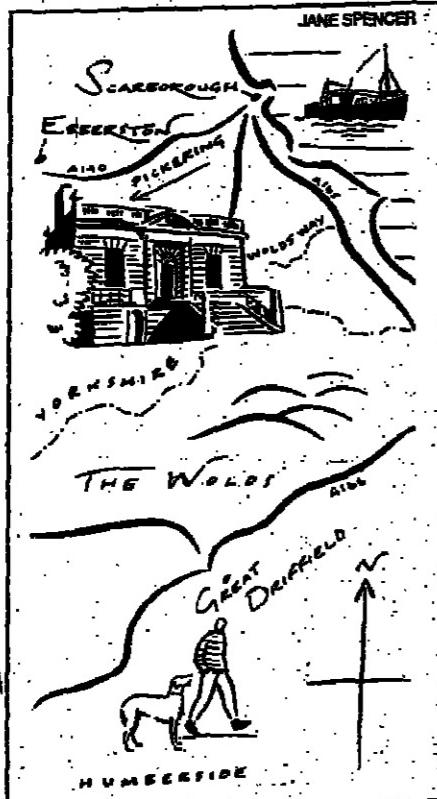
Appeal: The immensely restful atmosphere of this green, fertile landscape, faced with willow-girt streams, and seemingly always basking in sunshine and shadow.

Historic interest: Ebberston Hall, designed and built in 1718 as a mini-state-of-the-art for William Thompson, then MP for Scarborough, by the great master of the English Palladian style, Colen Campbell. Now the home of Johnny and Jane de Wend Fenton, this refined and elegant building, with its large welcoming doorway flanked by Tuscan columns, actually presents us with Campbell in his least Palladian mood. Though it has many Italianate features, it is replete with the ambience of a northern European civilisation. Close by, enveloped in the grounds of the hall,

stands the gem of St Mary's Church with its Norman nave and chancel besides many other interesting features dating from the later Middle Ages. Best time to visit: An early summer's day, alive with the song of larks and caressed by southerly breezes of the Wolds — though being snowed in at the Hall as a guest in wintertime has undeniable charms.

OS reference: 922833 (Landranger 101). Nearby: The Grapes Inn, a hostelry renowned throughout the locality, not only for its magnificent ales and mouth-watering pub food, but for the atmosphere of conviviality which reigns within its portals at almost any time of the day or evening. Further off, there is Scarborough, for my money the most handsome watering place on the North Sea coast of England, with its splendid Victorian architecture, its wonderful beach and its quintessentially "seaside" atmosphere.

PETER DAVIES



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footsteps
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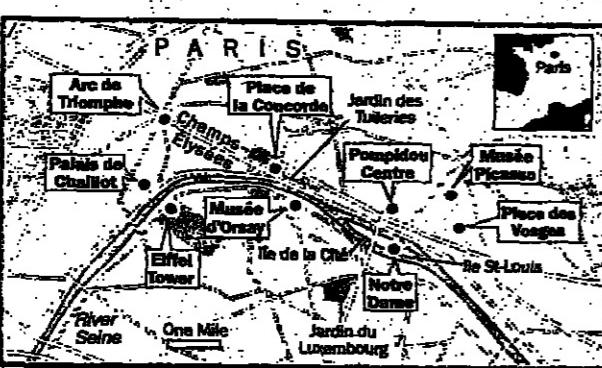
THE TIMES travel

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City break: Would three days be enough for Rita Golden to give her children an appreciation of the French capital?

All for the love of Paris



"Excusez-moi.
S'il vous plaît.
Move your butt.
Get out my way."

often at pavement cafés where they could practise their French by ordering their own coke and crepes.

We went on Eurostar. They were mad-keen to go on Eurostar. The thrill of ploughing under the English Channel and coming up in France is still such a novelty; there's a definite pioneering spirit aboard Eurostar. Five languages buzzed around our heads, and we particularly liked the French lady behind us who spent the entire trip reprimanding her two little girls; each time they argued back in perfect English.

Three hours on a train, however, is a long time for children; cards, crayons, Walkmans and books are essential fodder. As is food. We packed a French picnic of baguettes, Pepperami, cheeses, olives, apples and crisps. It got everyone in the right spirit and it was cheap.

At last Gare du Nord. A taxi hurtled us across the city, over the Seine and lunched to a stop on the cobblestones outside our hotel.

The refrain, following me up the Champs Elysées, was not encouraging Anglo-French relations. But it had a certain tempo to it and was keeping us going. The Champs Elysées was hot, crowded and long. I had just lost one child into the Virgin Megastore, and my arm was being wrenched out of its socket by a little person determined to disappear into the Disney shop. Was this the Paris I had planned?

My aim had been simple, not just to visit every Parisian landmark but to make them fall in love with Paris. The children had never really been to Paris before (the oldest had spent one day there three years ago with the school but only seemed to remember laughing at the French people), but now they were seven, 11 and 15, I deemed their legs long enough and their mother strong enough to explore what has to be the loveliest capital in Europe. We would go for three nights, after which I hoped they would know their Left Bank from their Right and their Montmartre from their Montparnasse.

Straightaway, there were problems. One was the age range: what delights a seven-year-old rarely rates as cool to a teenager. Plus, the 11-year-old was such a dreamer: I was going to have to be vigilant not to lose him under the first Citroën whizzing past Gare du Nord. To add to my problems, their father has vertigo. Anything tall had to be conquered before he joined us.

Food was another headache. The oldest and his father could spend hours devouring *fruits de mer*, *escargots* or *cailles de grenouille*; the two little ones' eyes only really lit up when illuminated by the golden neon arches of McDonald's.

Then how much could we cram into three days? I stirred up memories of half a dozen trips to Paris and then spent a long bonding session with a map of the city. The way seemed clear: we would explore the city in bursts of energy, hit only one art museum a day, stop at every merry-go-round we passed, and flop



"When the children's legs threatened to give way after conquering the Louvre, we requisitioned one of the toy sailboats at the pond in the nearby Jardin des Tuilleries"

and round tables and wicker chairs spilled out onto the pavements from the brasseries on either side. A clarinet was playing jazz from the Pont St-Louis, slap-bang in the middle of the Seine, slap-bang in the middle of Paris. Built on the site of the 17th-century royal tennis court for the game of Paume, it is a miracle mish-mash of ancient beams, scrubbed stone walls, hidden courtyards, modern art, glass balconies, a rickety glass lift, and a border collie called Enzo who spends his time pretending he's a doorman.

They had staved all day. I prised them away and marched them north over Pont Marie where we tried our first faltering French sentences on the Metro clerk.

The pilgrimage to the Arc de Triomphe should proceed up the Champs Elysées, so we got off at Tuilleries. The Tuilleries Gardens are not so much garden as garden path. The white gravel dazzles your eyes and ruins your shoes. But here was space to run and let off steam, which went down well.

We crossed the Place de la Concorde to squeals of delight from our eldest. She had spied Carrousel Galopant, a musical wonder of Belle Epoque artistry. On she went.

We made purposefully up the Champs Elysées. It is a beautiful avenue but goes on forever and the distractions are many — Hugo Boss, the Virgin Megastore, the Disney shop — and knees were buckling. We collapsed along-

side the Paris chic at Le Fouquet's, and watched the cars and roller-bladers roar up and down instead.

Recharged, if impoverished by 14.50 cokes, we finally stood under the Arc de Triomphe. The children gazed solemnly at the flame of remembrance and then raced up the stone steps to the top. The view was spectacular and the 11-year-old had fun walking round and round the perimeter counting the roads radiating from under his feet.

Beyond l'Etoile, the Eiffel Tower ... well, towered. We had to go.

We took the Metro to Trocadero. Here the sight of the Eiffel Tower as you swing round the Palais de Chaillot is awesome, and the question, "Do we go right to the top, Mummy?", was one more of concern than expectation. But a merry-go-round restored spirits, and the wonderfully-named Barbe à Papa (tandy floss) restored sugar levels.

Around the next corner is the Conciergerie, that vast

solemnity of Notre Dame. A choir was practising for a TV recording that night: Notre Dame must have some of the best acoustics in the world.

The crowds, however, were ferocious. I clung onto the children.

Rather usefully my daughter needed the lavatory. We can now recommend the lavatories under Notre Dame. For 30p you get a spacious cabinet, your own washbasin and a mirror. Impressive.

Round the corner from Notre Dame is Sainte-Chapelle, the private chapel of Louis IX that is now worshipped for its glorious stained-glass windows. This was far less crowded. As we walked into the main nave, the sun streamed in, making even the agnostic gulp. The children were quite transfixed.

If you grab a table on the west side you can see Sacré-Coeur, the Eiffel Tower, the gold dome of Invalides, the

14th-century fortress that looms over the Seine and looks like something out of central casting when lit up at night.

Inside it's gloomy, cavernous and echoey. A video with English subtitles gives a raw history of how in this prison 2,700 poor, rich wretches from the French Revolution, including Marie-Antoinette, waited to hear their fate, before being trundled through the streets to the guillotine. It was scary stuff. My little girl left holding her neck.

Stomachs were being held too. We crossed Pont Neuf to La Samaritaine, the department store, and took the lift to the ninth floor and then climbed to the Terrasse. From here is one of the greatest views of Paris — and it's free.

If you grab a table on the west side you can see Sacré-Coeur, the Eiffel Tower, the gold dome of Invalides, the

Seine curving through the city, straight up the Champs Elysées to Etoile, plus washing strung between chimneys.

Back on ground level, we stood awhile on the wooden footbridge, Pont des Arts, arguably the bridge over the Seine with the best views. Unbothered by traffic, here you can stand and dream. It even has benches if you have time to sit. We didn't.

Culture called. It was time to go to the Louvre. Pej's monstrous glass pyramid looks like the aliens landed right in the middle of the courtyard of the beautiful 16th-century facade of the Louvre. It fascinated them. The Louvre is seriously splendid — and huge. You have to decide which bit to do. Being the crass tourists they were, the children voted for the *Mona*

Lisa. After walking past the gigantic canvases of biblical scenes, the *Mona Lisa* seemed rather small and lost. The excitement around the picture, however, was palpable with students running towards it squealing. The kids went from side to side to see the enigmatic smile follow them and then unfortunately asked me why it is so famous.

Our art appreciation afternoon continued with the statues in the Jardin des Tuilleries. "Why don't they have any clothes on?" asked my small daughter. "Don't stare," hissed her brother. She looked a bit chagrined and then whispered to me, "They're all different." Quite so. Between the statues and the clinging couples, she was getting a good biology lesson.

It was late afternoon and

Continued on page 18

PARIS WITH CHILDREN FACT FILE

■ The author was assisted by her children: Max, 15; Gus, 11, and Merron, seven.

■ Eurostar (0345 303030) has adult fares from £89 to include a Saturday night stay. Children aged 4-11: £54. Youth Fare 12-25: £79. Under threes: free but no seat. Request table seats if available.

■ Accommodation: Hôtel du Jeu de Faune, 54 Rue St-Louis-en-l'Ile, 75004 Paris (00 33 4326 1418). Rates per night for double room with bath start at £95. Breakfast £8 per person. In August, breakfast is included.

■ A museum card, Carte Musées et Monuments, is available at museums and

■ We also played Monopoly with a board of Paris which not only increased their French vocabulary but also familiarised them with many street names and everyone got used to francs.

■ Reading. The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Toto in Paris* by Biddy Stevens (Little Brown, £3.50); *Time Out Paris* (Penguin, £9.99); *Degas and the Little Dancer*, by Laurence Anholt (Frances Lincoln, £8.99); *Paris Quest*, by Judy Allen (Red Fox, £2.99); *Where's Mama? Ou est Mamaa?*, by Diane Goode (Red Fox, £3.99); *Madeleine*, by Ludwig Bemelmans (Scholastic Children's Books, £5.99).

■ Shock, horror: Gus tucks into a plate of snails

major Métro stations, at £7.50 for a day, £15 for three days.

■ Métro: a carné of ten tickets for £5. All journeys cost the same.

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allowing time to absorb the colourful lifestyles and stark beauty of the countryside.

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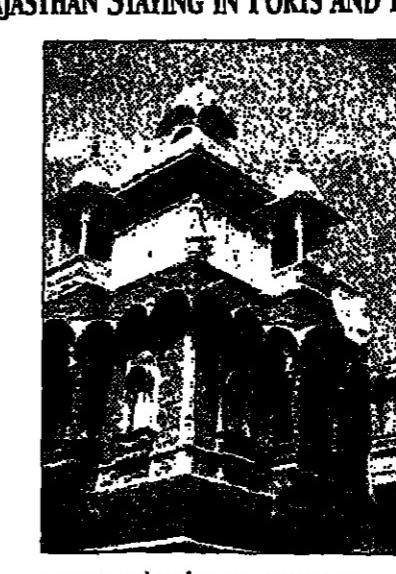
comfortable, clean, albeit simple

accommodation.

Each fort or palace will usually

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and walk in the nearby villages, many bustling with life and craftsmen. Obviously, such a trip is not for those who prefer to be cosseted and pampered in ultra-deluxe hotels, requiring 24-hour room service and all the refinements that a 5 star hotel can offer. Travellers undertaking this tour should appreciate that the accommodation will, in some properties be simple in style and there may only be a limited choice of cuisine. However, the rewards will be immense; the opportunity to stay in a totally unspoilt environment amongst gentle people, a million miles away from the usual 'tourist India' of today.

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South Africa: Eye to eye with an angry lion, Sandy Gall completely forgets what he is meant to do . . .

Eaten up with terror

It was just a walk through the South African bush one sunny morning. Before we started, Marius, the big young Afrikaans ranger who carried his heavy-calibre hunting rifle as if it was a peashooter, called us for a talk. "It's highly unlikely on our walk this morning that we will come face to face with any large animal," he began. No one looked desperately disappointed. "Virtually all animals, including elephant and lion, fear humans and will avoid them whenever possible". His baby blue eyes were reassuringly calm. "So we're unlikely to run into any trouble. But if we do, don't panic, above all don't run. Just stand still and do what I tell you!"

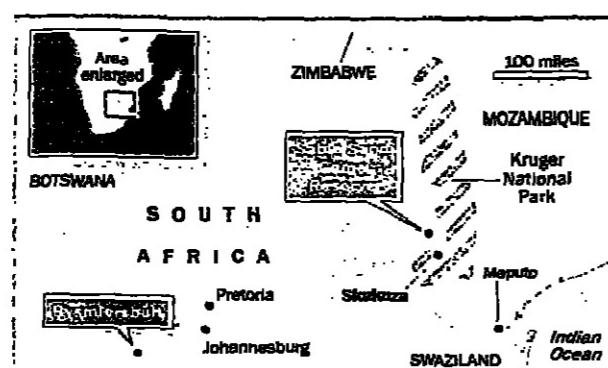
Marius shouldered his rifle and set out along a sandy track with ten of us, men and women, mostly British, trudging along behind him. It was a beautiful late summer day in northern Transvaal, with fleecy white clouds sailing across the blue sky. We were in Inyati, part of the Sabie Sand Game Reserve, on the edge of the Kruger National Park; and for most of the party it was their first walking safari.

The grass was high — the rains had been exceptionally heavy — and as we came to a wet patch on the track, hundreds of tiny butterflies rose in a yellow cloud in front of us, dancing and twinkling in the sunlight. We stopped to admire them and Marius explained some intriguing facts about a particular type of grass.

Birdsong bubbled among the acacias, their delicate green foliage hiding vicious thorns. A hornbill, nicknamed a "flying banana" by George, another ranger, swooped across the bush in front of us, its huge beak making it look front-heavy.

We knew we were in a rich game area. The Kruger Park covers nearly 8,000 square miles — the size of Wales — and there is no fence between it and the adjoining private game reserves. Two nights earlier, we had watched a pride of lion, consisting of two lionesses and nine big cubs, setting off at dusk on a hunting expedition.

We followed them in safari vehicles for half an hour until we lost them in the bush. A pride of that size takes a lot of feeding. Luckily, there were hundreds of impala grazing almost everywhere you looked. The day before we had come across a family of cheetah, a mother and three full-



SOUTH AFRICA FACT FILE

- British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and South African Airways have scheduled flights to South Africa. SAA (0171-312 5000) has promotional fares of £412, including taxes, to Johannesburg; £452 to Cape Town. Tickets must be purchased before July 11 for travel by September 30. Otherwise, fares start at £829 return.
- Bluebird Holidays (0990 320000) has charter flights and holiday packages to Johannesburg and Cape Town from November 19-April 30, 1998. Flight prices start at £399 return.
- Car rental: Budget (0800 181181) has a week's inclusive hire from £163.02 from Cape Town. Hertz (0990 906090) quotes £169 for one week. £338 for a fortnight.
- The author stayed at Inyati Game Lodge (00 27 1149 30755) in the Sabie Sand Game Reserve, a private game reserve. SAA quotes £128 return from Johannesburg to Skukuza, then courtesy bus to Inyati. For further information: South African Tourism Board (0181-944 8080).
- Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *The Kruger National Park*, by Jane Carruthers (University of Natal Press £11.99). *In the Heart of the Country*, by J. M. Coetzee (Penguin, £5.99). *South African Eden: The Kruger National Park 1902-1946*, by James Stevenson-Hamilton (Struik, £14.99). *Cadogan Guide, South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho* (£14.99).



"I found myself looking straight at a large male lion"

grown cubs sunning themselves on a rock at the top of a small valley, their mask-like faces regally impassive. To me, they are the most beautiful of the predators.

"You notice how they all have their backs to us," George said after switching off the engine. "They know they're safe with us here, but cheetah are always on the lookout for lion or hyena. They

chase them off their kills — very often the cheetah have hardly had time to start feeding when the lion and hyenas arrive. They'll kill them, too, if they get half a chance.

"You see the pattern of stripes on their faces? That means they're diurnal, not nocturnal like the cats." Splendidly immobile, the four cheetah turned their large golden eyes away from us, searching the landscape for prey, or a predator. I wondered aloud where the male was.

"Oh, once they've mated, they lose interest. They keep to themselves mostly."

Then, in the evening, we had been lucky enough to see a young leopard lying indolently on a patch of grass, oblivious to our presence.

All this went through my mind as we walked behind Marius for half an hour in a big circle, and I was just thinking how tame this was by comparison when he stopped and held up his hand. Then he pointed at the ground and all eyes followed his finger. In the middle of the track lay a forked twig.

"That means the pride is somewhere close," Marius said, keeping his voice down. "Wait here, while I have a look." He moved off the track into the bush remarkably quietly for such a big man. After he had gone about 30 yards he stopped, looked, and then

slowly waved us forward, putting a finger to his lips. I was in the middle of the line and had tipped almost to where Marius was standing when I heard a very distinct growl. Perhaps two growls together. Marius raised his hand but we had all stopped in our tracks. The growl was unmistakably a lion's.

"The pride's just ahead of us, through the trees," Marius whispered. We were all tense now, breathing shallowly. I peered through the bush, and after five seconds could just make out the shape of possibly two or three lions lying in a clearing — but whether I was

looking at the lionesses or the cubs, it was impossible to tell. "Just start moving back, very slowly," Marius breathed.

As I inched backwards, my gaze swung a few yards to the right. What I saw made me stand absolutely still. I found myself looking straight at a large male lion and he — head and ears pricked, and perhaps only 50 yards away — was looking straight at me: eyeball to eyeball. I could not remember if I was supposed to make, or avoid, eye contact, so I began to back away again until he was no longer visible, and I was no longer under his intense scrutiny.

It was a relief to reach the road. When we had all reassembled, Marius said: "You did exactly the right thing. That first growl was a warning. If we hadn't stopped the lionesses would have charged — because of the cubs — and Jonathan, the male lion, would almost certainly have joined in."

That's when I wondered what I would have done if he had charged. Stood rooted to the spot like a gibbering idiot? Closed my eyes? Or stared him down? I finished the walk in a kind of happy

daze. There is nothing like danger overcome to elate the soul.

When we were back in camp I asked Marius what he would have done if one of the lions had charged.

"Well, I wouldn't have shot until the last moment. You probably only have time for one shot, anyway, and there's always a chance that the lion will abort the charge. But you never know with a lion as aggressive as Jonathan. He used to be young and aggressive. Now he's less aggressive," I asked why he was called Jonathan.

"After a researcher we have here called Jonathan Swart. He's doing a PhD on pangolins (scaly anteaters), which are nocturnal. One night he bumped into the pride. The male was so aggressive that Mr Swart had to climb an acacia, which is very prickly, in a hurry, leaving all his papers on the ground. He was up there all night. The lions wouldn't let him down. Next morning, when they had gone, he came down the tree to find his papers all chewed up. Ever since, the lion's been called Jonathan."

As I walked to my room I decided I didn't want to be a pangolin researcher after all.

WORD WATCHING	
<i>Answers from page 23</i>	
SOXHLET	CARACAL
(b) Apparatus and method devised by F. S. Soxhlet (1848-1926) for continuous solvent extraction of a solid. <i>The Journal of Physiology</i> , 1899: "I used case in which had been extracted for a week in Soxhlet's apparatus." 1968. <i>Organic Synthesis: Barium Hydroxide is placed in the thimble of a Soxhlet extractor over a flask of boiling Acetone."</i>	(b) A feline animal found in northern Africa and south-western Asia. It belongs to the sub-genus of lynxes. <i>Jardine, Felines</i> , 1834: "The caracal has always been considered to be the lynx mentioned by the ancients as possessing such wonderful power of sight."
CALABOOSA	CUNETTE
(c) The name in New Orleans and adjacent parts of the Southern States for a common prison. <i>Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> , 1850: "Send them to the calaboose or some of the other places to be flogged."	(a) A trench sunk along the dry ditch or moat, serving as a drain and as an obstacle to the passage of the enemy or to persistent mining. 1763. <i>Chronicles Annual Register</i> : "The cunette of Dunkirk is entirely filled up excepting a trifling part for which there was no earth." Napier, <i>The Peninsular War</i> , 1828-40: "A cunette or second ditch had been dug at the bottom of the great ditch."

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The MS Ra is a large Nile cruiser purpose built in Britain and accom-

modating up to 140 passengers. Facilities on board include a restaurant, bar, sun deck with swimming pool, jacuzzi. All cabins are air conditioned with large picture windows and have private bathrooms.

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1999</p

... while Dennis Rink prospects for diamonds, and Hilary Rubinstein visits a heaven-scented hotel

PICTURES

It was a scene that the young Cecil John Rhodes would have recognised. The barren veld is pockmarked by huge man-made gouges, leaving red scars across the landscape. Ricketty, rusty machinery scrapes away layer after layer of gravel.

More cranking machinery washes the gravel, shakers and spins it, finally spitting it onto rough sorting tables, where hopeful hands carefully comb through the debris, searching eagerly for the glint of a rough diamond.

The Digger's Tour is not your regular visit to a mine, especially for visitors to Johannesburg, where everything is gold. This is diamond country, a place where you can expect to get your hands dirty, your shoes muddied.

Here, among machinery that dates back to the discovery of diamonds in the area, you have a chance to see and feel mining just as it was in the prospecting days of a century ago.

Visitors are allowed, in fact encouraged, to lend a hand in the sorting process.

Should you find that gleaming prize, the operators promise that they will replace it with a cut diamond of equivalent size. If you happen to miss that precious sparkler, never fear — the gravel is recycled and sorted by experts after the amateurs have left.

It is a day's visit to the past in more senses than one. In South Africa there are still vast areas where the hectic pace of modern life has yet to take hold, where good old-fashioned hospitality is usual.



Sifting gravel for diamonds

MINE OF INFORMATION

■ The author travelled with Virgin Atlantic (01293 747747), which has daily flights from Heathrow to Johannesburg. Flight fares start at £411 if booked before July 11 for travel by September 30. Virgin Holidays (01293 67788) also has a week's flydrive from £759 a person. ■ The Digger's Tour costs £25 for the day, including meal, but excluding transport. Telephone (00 27 11 462 3766).

■ Goldmine tours: the favourite is Gold Reef City (00 27 11 499 1600), a replica mining town with hotels, shops, restaurants and theme park based around Shaft 14 of Crown Mines, just southwest of central Johannesburg. Visits offer a tour down a goldmine, plus gold pouring, at £25 per person, self-drive. Coach tours with guide are available through Springbok Atlas (00 27 11 396 1053) at £27 a person.

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends *Cry the Beloved Country*, by Alan Paton (Penguin, £6.99). *My Traitor's Heart*, by Rian Malan (Vintage, £7.99).

So, after a hard day at the diggings, visitors are served a traditional South African meal, along with a few beers and plenty of conversation.

There is *potjiekos* (meat and vegetables cooked in a pot over a fire), or a *braaiweis* (barbecue) that includes locally made *boerewors* (farmer's sausage), *mieliepap* (maize porridge) and *sous* (tomato and onion sauce).

The *boerewors* really is good — you can take that from a Transvaal

boy lad. To round off the day, a choir from a nearby school entertains visitors with traditional songs and dancing.

Rynsmeiersburg is a 90-minute drive west of Johannesburg, through the endless maize fields running parallel to the Magaliesberg range just to the north.

Like much of the highveld, the road from Johannesburg seems to go on forever, but suddenly you are there, a small farm in a shallow

valley, where the meanderings of the Moo River, now a mere sprout (stream), have, over the ages, exposed the alluvial diamonds.

We are far from the more famous and much richer Cullinan and Kimberley diamond diggings, but about 300,000 carats have been uncovered here in the past 70 years, enough to keep the diggers away from the nearby goldfields.

The Digger's Tour is run by Johan Raubenheimer Jnr, but it is Oom (Uncle) Raubie — Johan

Raubenheimer Sur — who gives authenticity to the tour with his anecdotes and his wealth of knowledge about diamond mining. Oom Raubie, now in his mid-seventies, is full of stories and statistics, accumulated over a lifetime of prospecting.

During our meal he talks about the size and colour of the diamonds found in the area, the theories of geology and the prospector's big question: just how do you find a diamond?

Most of all, he is full of tales about the characters who peopled this area a few generations ago, the fortunes made and lost, the smugglers, the security men and the customs officers.

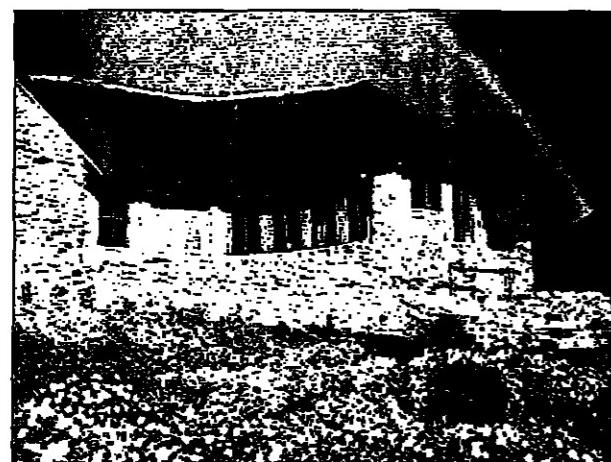
The diggings on the farm are no longer run commercially. Oom Raubie explains, but are started up only for visitors. "We are not digging on a very big scale. We leave it, and when people come along we put it into operation and when we see that our meat is very low in the freezer, then we work so that we can go to buy some food and pay some debts and pay the customs."

The pace of life may have changed little for Oom Raubie, but the relentless pursuit of the precious stones continues close by. Before returning to Johannesburg, Mr Raubenheimer Jnr took us to a mine less than a mile from the farm, where amid the roar and rumble, huge machines move hundreds of tonnes of earth each day. I could see why Oom Raubie prefers the old way.



The Kimberley Diamond Mine Museum is a must for visitors

A royal welcome to the floral kingdom



The Grootbos has its own nature reserve with experts



The coastline between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth has been designated by botanists as a "floral kingdom", exemplified by Plettenberg Bay

South Africa is a marvel of our time. Within a few years, it has overcome seemingly insurmountable problems, although many more remain to be confronted. The extra bonus of visiting South Africa now is that you have a ringside seat on history.

As a veteran collector of good hotels, I had an additional incentive for a visit. For a long time, I have been hearing about the Cape's wonderful hotels. Are they really as good, irrespective of their price brackets, as their European counterparts?

It is absurd to generalise, but in a fortnight we visited four hotels and scored four winners. And from all I heard, I am confident that it could have multiplied that list several times over if I had travelled further and stayed longer.

But I also had a stroke of luck, finding one hotel — Grootbos Lodge By the Sea, 100 miles east of Cape Town — that wasn't simply as good as the best in Europe, but a one-off, a place that offered something very special. It was like a lepidopterist who nets a rare butterfly, or a publisher's reader who finds a lucky line.

To appreciate what it has to offer, you need to know that the area between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, typified by Plettenberg Bay, has been classified by botanists as one of the world's six "floral kingdoms". The Cape kingdom, known as the *fynbos*, covers a relatively small percentage of the Earth's surface, but contains more than 8,500 different plant species. I had never



heard of the *fynbos* before, but it has certainly registered with me now, thanks to Michael Lutzeyer, an ardent ecological enthusiast, who has created the Grootbos nature reserve. He bought 1,000 hectares of coastal plain and mountains a few years ago and has established a special hotel, with eight beautifully appointed chalets, overlooking a stirring sweep of the Indian Ocean.

There are open fireplaces in the lounges, and terraced balconies overlooking a stupendous arc of Walker Bay in the Indian Ocean from Danger Point in the east to Hermanus and the Kleinmond mountains in the west. On fine days you can see Cape Point 60 miles away.

The chalets are special in themselves, but what distinguishes Grootbos from other lovingly designed chalet-style hotels in a spectacular landscape is the presence, among the enthusiastic staff,

of a resident botanist, marine biologist and ornithologist, engaged to help the visitor appreciate the many unique features of this area.

You do not need to take advantage of their services in walks, drives and ocean trips, but you would be foolish to miss the chance. Eighty-five species of birds have been

identified on the nature reserve, including such rarities as the African Black Oystercatcher. Gorgeous proteas abound among the numerous species of flora. I would never describe myself as a serious nature-lover, but I found myself enthralled by the variety of natural life displayed. I had no idea, for

instance, that I would find the life of the dung beetle so fascinating. The Grootbos — its slogan "luxury cottages in harmony with the ecology" — includes a daily morning delivery to your chalet of provisions (bread, yoghurt, meat, cheese, fruit, eggs — enough to provide both breakfast and lunch) and an excellent dinner in the lodge. The services of the specialist staff, boat and four-wheel drive trips, bicycles, horses and a swimming pool are all included in the basic price. Only wine costs extra. Single-night bookings are not accepted.

We had only two days available for our visit, but would willingly have stayed

longer. I wish we could have visited between July and December and had a chance to see the Southern Right whale mating and calving just offshore. It is not often that you find a place to stay that stimulates the mind as much as it pampering the flesh.

• Hilary Rubinstein is Editor of The Good Hotel Guide.

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مكتبة الأصل

Hungary: Both Buda and Pest have an illuminated elegance, while outside there's Bull's Blood and a torture museum

In the footsteps of Attila the Hun

Margitsziget, Margaret Island, is neither Buda nor Pest but an elegant park in the middle of the Danube. There is an old Hungarian saying, "Love begins and ends on Margit-sziget", and romance is certainly in the air with waltz music emanating from speakers hidden in trees. Apart from buses, and taxis bringing guests to the two hotels on the island, motor vehicles are banned. Traffic consists of bicycles, pedal-cars and horse-drawn carriages. A cafe serves sundae and knickerbocker glories, a man sells balloons: we seemed to have stepped back in time.

The two hotels supposedly cater for rich invalids. Hardly fitting that description, we nevertheless stayed at the Ramada Grand, the older of the two, in a vast suite with massive rosewood furniture; our son's cot was like a cage in some private menagerie. An underground passage links the Ramada Grand to the modern Thermal Hotel; the hotels share spa facilities. Beside a large swimming-pool, there are three smaller pools fed by hot springs, each at slightly different temperatures, as well as a sauna and a steam room. I understand that Carlos the Jackal used to stay at the Thermal Hotel.

Beside the spa there are two public pools on the island, the Hajos Alfred Nemzeti Sportuszoda, and Palatinus Strand, with segregated nudist terraces and a gay area. Some people swim in the river, then sunbathe on the concrete banks, looking as if they have been washed ashore.

Budapest, despite its beleaguered history, is a stylish city. At night it is stunningly illuminated, the buildings and monuments on both sides of the river shimmer and float like mirages. While Buda has the more obvious and older tourist attractions, I preferred Pest with its grand *fin-de-siècle* boulevards, now somewhat the worse for wear, and its handsome tenements, also in some disrepair. I kept seeing places that reminded me of Paris and later I discovered that film crews come to Pest to recreate the Paris of 1920s.

The New York Kavehaz,



Extraordinary baroque interior of the Café Hungaria in Budapest, all twisting columns, marble and gold leaf

fallen away in great clumps. I soon found the market, Józsefváros Piac. Security guards were frisking people for guns but the crowd inside the gates seemed placid enough. Despite its evident popularity, there was not much variety: stainless steel pots and pans, cassettes of dance music, T-shirts with nonsense messages, calculators and digital watches, pirate

fashion items. The stallholders were mainly Chinese — I was surprised to discover a Chinese community in Budapest — sometimes Gypsies, the men short and dark and the women in headscarves and long skirts. There was nothing worth buying but I enjoyed the frantic atmosphere, the haggling and hawking.

That afternoon I climbed to the Tomb of Gul Baba, the northernmost Islamic shrine in Europe, at the top of the steepest street in Buda (badly laid cobbles make the ascent even more arduous) where several Ottoman houses date from the period of Turkish rule in the 16th and 17th centuries. Gul Baba, "Father of Roses", was a Dervish saint and his tomb is a small domed building decorated with gifts from pilgrims. Outside the tomb a parched rose garden stood in need of deadheading. It all seemed rather neglected. There was nothing to explain why Gul Baba was so revered. But after a few minutes on the steps in the sunshine I warmed to the serenity of the location high above the city. We decided to visit Szeged, a

city two hours south of Budapest by train, near the Romanian border. It was a pleasant journey across the great plains, past fields of sweetcorn and sunflowers. Szeged is on the banks of the River Tisza, somewhere beneath whose waters lies the body of Attila the Hun in a triple-layered coffin of gold, silver and lead. Attila died in AD 453 of a nosebleed while making love. The coffin presumably sank into the mud of the river bed; it has never been found.

What draws tourists to Szeged is the architecture. In March 1879 the Tisza burst its banks (a disaster referred to as "The Big Water") destroying most of the city. With international relief funds Szeged was rebuilt into a patchwork of squares and boulevards, mostly in the Hungarian Art Nouveau style. An entire town built in that style is like the set of some frothy operetta. You expect a line of can-can girls around the buttercup-yellow Town Hall with its frilly tower and icing-sugar embellishments. The Ungar-Mayer house in

Dugonics Square is a voluptuous maharajah's palace, its cupola decorated with a tin frieze of life-size naked women, all apparently portraits of popular ballerinas.

Dom Square is a three-sided arched building housing the bishop's palace, a theological college and a students' dormitory, with each of its brick columns a different design, some square, some circular, some twisted. Inside the arcades are 80 statues and reliefs of prominent Hungarians. We were there at the wrong time to see the musical clock which, apparently, has mechanical professors dancing around Count Klebelsburg, a former rector of the college.

At the north end of the square stands the Romanesque Votive Church that commemorates the flood and its survivors. There is a mosaic of the Virgin Mary dressed as a Hungarian peasant. A little market was taking place behind the church selling embroidered tablecloths, tins of paprika, salamis and — strangely barbaric — cowhide rugs complete with their tails.

JOE ROBERTS

Cosmopolitan cocktail

A short ride by train from the centre of Budapest or an hour and a half upriver on the ferry, lies Szentendre, one of Hungary's most cosmopolitan villages and now home to an artists' colony of painters, sculptors and ceramists, whose works are displayed in the many galleries dotting the picture-postcard streets.

One of the best is the Margit Kovacs Museum, filled with the works of Hungary's best-known ceramicist. The "Montmartre of the Danube", as writer Claudio Magris described this Mediterranean-style riverside settlement, with its painted houses and cloistered gardens, is also home to a Serbian minority. This is a legacy of the Serbian defeat by the Ottomans at the battle of Kosovo in 1389 when refugees poured north to avoid the advance of Islam.

The Blagovestenska Orthodox Church on the corner of Po square, is lined with a series of evocative icons detailing Serbian history, while more light-hearted diversions are available at the engaging Wine Museum on Bogdanyi street, and the open-air Szentendre Village Museum, just outside the town. One of Hungary's most popular open-air cultural attractions, the museum includes replicas of a village from Szabolcs-Szatmar county in the eastern half of the country, and the neat and tidy dwellings of the ethnic German minority in the west.

Visit Eger from its castle in summer and in winter, although not necessarily in that order. Just outside the pleasant city of baroque squares and cafés overlooking the River Eger is the Szemasszony Valley (valley of the beautiful women). Dozens of wine cellars are cut into the side of a gentle grassy slope. This is the place to try Hungarian sherry, Bikaver, Bull's Blood, as well

as Medoc Noir, Muskotal and Leányka, a herb, medium dry white.

Eger is also a place to taste the complicated cocktail that is Hungary's history. The top of the minaret, a relic of the years when Hungary was part of the Ottoman Empire, is an excellent place from which to view the town. Perched on a hill with commanding views of Eger is the castle, from where Magyars at first resisted and then eventually succumbed to the advancing Ottoman hordes. It includes an art gallery, the remains of the Gothic cathedral and a museum with Ottoman weapons as well as a gruesome museum of torture. There are underground tours of the castle's maze of cellars and pathways with lively guides who explain in detail how the battle for the castle was fought and how the siege progressed.

Hungary's finest Islamic monuments are to be found in Pécs near the Croatian border. The city's Ottoman heritage gives Pécs a lighter, almost Mediterranean atmosphere, a southern air accentuated by its verdant sloping streets, agreeable climate and youthful student population. All the empires whose armies once stampeded across this much contested slice of central Europe have left their mark here. There are Roman tombs on Apaca street, a 4th-century subterranean chapel on Szent István square and part of the medieval town walls.

Apart from its rich cultural heritage, Pécs's main attraction is the Csontvary museum on János Pannonius street. Csontvary, whose works so impressed Picasso when he saw them exhibited in Paris, is one of the masters of Magyar art, and his works are one of the reasons to venture outside Budapest.

ADAM LEBOR



HUNGARY FACT FILE

■ Joe Roberts travelled with Thermalia Travel (0171-586 7725) which offers two four-star hotels on Margitsziget: the Grand (previously the Ramada) and the Danubius Thermal. Prices at both start from £655 until August 30, thereafter £742, for a seven-night "Thermal Therapy" package including return flights from Heathrow or Malév, seven nights' half-board accommodation, a medical examination and a range of spa treatments. The 14-night "Complete Spa Package" starts from £1,178. Thermalia also features the Danubius Hotel Gellert, close to the city centre. Prices start from £438 for three nights, to include a Saturday.

■ Tour operators featuring Hungary outside Budapest include Lava Travel (0171-323 3305) and Danube Travel (0171-493 0263). An eight-day fly-drive holiday with Intratravel costs £265 per person. A week-long package including flights, three nights in Budapest and four in Eger costs from £395 per person.

■ Hungarian National Tourist Board (0171-823 1032).

■ Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: *Under The Frog*, by Tibor Fischer (Penguin, £6.99); *Budapest: A Critical Guide*, by András Torok (Pallas Athene, £9.95); *Between The Woods and the Water*, by Patrick Leigh Fermor (Penguin, £7.99); *Hungary, Travel Survival Kit* (Lonely Planet, £11.99).

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'Napoleon would just have to wait'

Continued from page 15
legs had gone again. That was until they saw the toy sailboats whipping across the round pond before us. For £1.10 we requisitioned a boat and two long sticks, and the two smaller ones spent the next half hour careering round the pond, prodding their boat into sailing forth across the waves.

By now, their father was expected, so we just had time to walk across the grand Pont Alexandre III and wave at Invalides. Napoleon would have to wait for the next visit.

Day Three the Bohemian Left Bank, which rallied with our subversive adolescent who suggested we stayed in bed all day.

We took a taxi to the Musée d'Orsay and spent an entire morning admiring not only the wonderful Impressionist collection but also the old station building itself. My daughter had just read *Degas and the Little Dancer* and was delighted to find the ballerina statue with her turned-up nose. Their father wailed long before they did, and that was before they hit the gift shop and couldn't decide whether Monet or Seurat would adorn their bedroom walls.

After the morning spent improving ourselves, we plonked down at Les Deux Magots on Saint-Germain, the



Merron, Max and Gas take in lunch overlooking the Seine

old watering-hole of Hemingway and Sartre. The children weren't impressed. The waiter wasn't much impressed with us either. I don't think we were scenic enough for the front of his establishment.

The Luxembourg Gardens were only a short stroll down a maze of narrow streets and the younger two swooped on the adventure playground where

the swings and ropes wouldn't have disgraced the Territorial Army. You have to pay to get in but they loved it. "This is a cool place," I was told. Outside, there were ponies to ride under the avenue of horse chestnut trees and one of those merry-go-rounds where you collect rings on a stick.

By the evening my husband decided Paris meant frog's legs. The Auberge de la Reine Blanche was just up our street, in more ways than one. The walls were festooned with doll's house furniture, and tankards from a wealth of countries were pinned above the bar. Edith Piaf's *La Vie en Rose* rose from somewhere and, yes, frog's legs.

Last Day: having packed our bags ready for the off, we struck out for the Right Bank and the Marais. It was a bright Sunday morning and, in cobble squares, artists and antique dealers were getting up their stalls. We headed down Rue des Rosiers, the architectural beauty of Paris's first square being somewhat lost on the children. They were, however, intrigued by the way the leaves on the trees all round the square ended in sync like some large communal green skirt.

We then spent a happy hour in the Musée Picasso, with its secret alcoves and sculpture garden, where you can trace Picasso's artistic life from 14 years old into his nineties.

For our last lunch we moved out of old Paris and off to the multicoloured tubes of the Georges Pompidou Centre. The kids were mesmerised by the cavitating fountains in the Fontaine Stravinsky until hunger set in again. We gave in to popular demand: they went off to McDonald's and we sat in the Café Rive Droite next door.

The last-minute shopping trip down our street meant that Picasso and Pompidou had a lot to answer for. We were dragged into Pylones, trading in the ultra-modern and the bizarre, which is why we ended up with one purple plastic blow-up armchair, one purple blow-up bin, and a Bart Simpson chess-set.

So did they fall in love with Paris? They certainly clung tightly onto their posters and purchases, and even the interminable queue for taxis at Waterloo didn't seem to dampen their joie de vivre. In fact, all I could hear was

"Excuse-moi,
S'il vous plaît,
Move your butt,
Get out my way."

Britain: A visit to a stately home in Leicestershire — and the chance to invite all your friends along too



Present and correct: some of the staff who work at Stapleford Park, the 16th-century manor where the house party will be held

Slow life – with a flagon of sloe gin

If Stapleford Park has a role in life it is to make everywhere else look scruffier by comparison. It does this very well: Those who visit look all about them, admire the decor and resolve that when they get home they will buy new lampshades, give the bathroom a good scrubbing and remove that old bone from the dog basket and the squashed. After eight mint from the back of the bookshelf.

This 16th-century manor house in 500 acres of Leicestershire countryside is intimidating at first, what with the smart cars outside, including a vintage Rolls-Royce. Ours was one of the few that did not have a FREDI or BILL2 registration plate, so we parked discreetly. I resolved to keep my jacket on in case anyone should see the Marks & Spencer label, but I need not have worried. The staff, most of whom are local, were delightfully unsnoozy. They were all enlivened in plus fours, tweed waistcoats and shirts printed with hunting insignia and looked a bit like a feature on what well-dressed gillies are wearing this season.

The guests were a surprise, too. I had expected them to be affluent octogenarians, but most were youngish and generally like us. One woman even wore the same M&S jacket as me. Some people had brought their dogs but we had left our Jack Russell behind in case she disgraced us.

We were led past oak paneling, tapestries and Venetian glass mirrors to our room — curiously named "Lakeview" because it overlooked the lake — which was pretty. There were also some nice touches: chocolate chip biscuits, a flask of chilled water and a flagon of sloe gin which we immediately



STAPLEFORD FACT FILE

■ Stapleford Park, near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2EF. 01572 787522. Rooms cost from £165 a night for two people. A Clarins facial is £46 and a Falconer's Walk costs £30 per person.

■ Some forthcoming Stapleford events: Tennis Challenge, July 26-27. Gardens open to the public on August 2, plus open-air evening concert by Esterhazy Orchestra. Afternoon concert, August 10, by Pasadena Roof Orchestra.

drank. We looked at the options for the afternoon — carriage driving, hot-air ballooning, pheasant shooting etc — but decided instead to collapse on the sunbeds with a gentle swim afterwards.

Stapleford used to be part of the estates of John O'Gaunt but the present house dates from the 16th century and was owned over the centuries by earls and lords that I had never heard of until 1995 when it was bought by Peter de Savary, whom I had.

A house like this inevitably sets you wondering about the owner. How, for instance, does Mr de Savary (or PDS as his staff call him) in reverent tones pay for it all? Does his bank manager send him nasty letters like mine does to me? We had two hours before dinner so I sat in the Jacuzzi doing sums. Being a committed shopper, I knew the hanging lanterns in the pool area must have cost at least £500 each and the blue mosaic tiles about £1 each and there are squillions of them and suddenly I realised why a ham sandwich here costs £7.

Then I was persuaded to have a Clarins facial so I lay

Shoppe. The boated serving girls were offering what they called samples but which were actually great wedges of crisp-crusted heaven. We ate three each and bought enough pies to sink a battleship.

Then it was back to Stapleford for a falconry lesson. Stapleford has two falcons, one named Peter, the other named Paul, although I was the only person who thought this amusing. Paul showed us his birds — falcons, hawks, an eagle and an owl — sitting on their perches in the gardens wearing furious expressions. He gave us leather gauntlets to protect us against the talons that can crush a rabbit's skull and we set off with a hawk called Arrow for a Falconer's Walk. This involved us walking around the grounds while Arrow flew from tree to tree at a discreet distance and dropped in occasionally for some chopped chicken which we held aloft.

At one point he flew into some nearby bushes. "I think he's seen something," said Paul with masterly understatement as a pheasant emerged from the undergrowth, clucking in outrage and only just escaped with his life if not his dignity. Paul pointed out that Arrow weighed 1lb 9oz while the portly pheasant must have weighed about 5lb. I asked Paul if the birds often attacked creatures larger than themselves. "Well, we have had a bit of a problem with Jack Russells," he said.

After a vast lunch I wandered through the Great Hall and gazed out of the window, where the view probably has not changed much since the days of John O'Gaunt, upset to think I would never see him cantering across the rolling acres in his black armour, or throw my scarf in the air so knights could joust over it, and how crushingly unfair life is. But then John O'Gaunt never enjoyed the blue-mosaic swimming pool, the jazz quartet, or nodded off with Sally rubbing elixir into his face.

MARY GOLD

MICHAEL POYELL

BECOME LORD OF THE MANOR FOR A NIGHT

Win a house party worth £25,000

IN NOVEMBER 1996, Stapleford Park opened as an Outpost of the legendary Carnegie Club at Skibo Castle in the Highlands of Scotland.

In the heart of the Leicestershire countryside, Stapleford Park is set in 500 acres of magnificent Capability Brown park and woodland. With its wide range of country pursuits and luxurious accommodation, Stapleford Park offers both guests and members the opportunity to enjoy a house party atmosphere in the spirit of those enjoyed by the flamboyant guests of Andrew Carnegie in the grand Edwardian era.

The 51 bedrooms at Stapleford have each been individually designed by such luminaries as Mulberry, Designers Guild, Nina Campbell, Crabtree & Evelyn, and Tiffany.

With reception rooms that are furnished with antiques, paintings, prints and furni-



At home in the drawing room at Stapleford Park

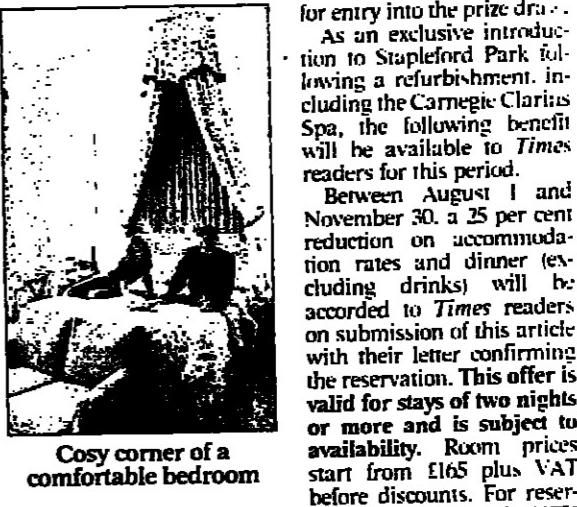
25 per cent off stays at Stapleford Park

THIS IS HOW you can win an exclusive House Party at Stapleford Park for you and your friends, up to a total of 80 (40 double rooms).

The programme for the House Party will be as follows:

- Day 1
 - Guests arrive at Stapleford in time for lunch.
 - Afternoon activities will include clay pigeon shooting, archery, tennis, mountain biking, horse riding, mini-golf, falconry and use of the Carnegie Clarins Spa. (NB: horse riding and Clarins beauty treatments are not included in the prize.)
 - Champagne reception in the Saloon.
 - Gala dinner in the Grand Hall of the house.
- Day 2
 - Breakfast in the Grinling Gibbons Dining Room.
 - Mid-morning departure.

All accommodation, activities, food and wine are included in the prize.



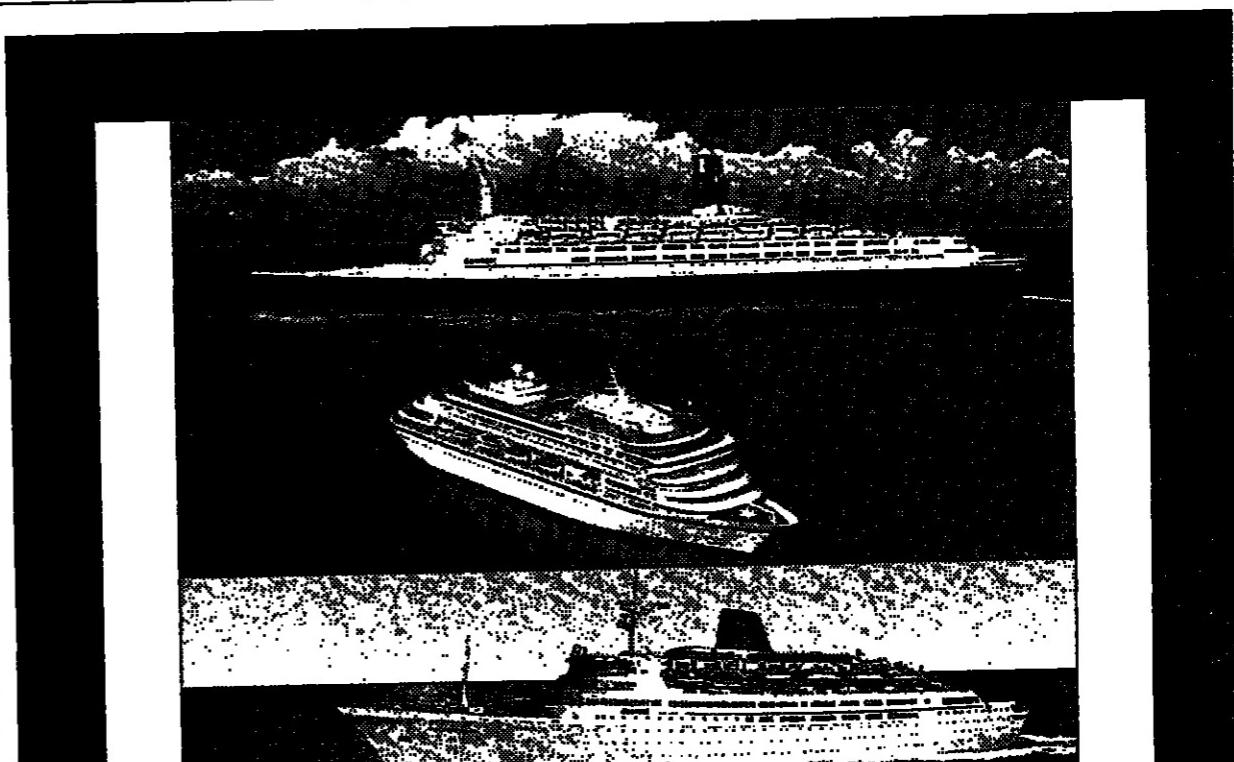
Cosy corner of a comfortable bedroom

In order to qualify for entry into the prize draw, as an exclusive introduction to Stapleford Park following a refurbishment, including the Carnegie Clarins Spa, the following benefit will be available to *Times* readers for this period.

Between August 1 and November 30, a 25 per cent reduction on accommodation rates and dinner (excluding drinks) will be accorded to *Times* readers on submission of this article with their letter confirming the reservation. This offer is valid for stays of two nights or more and is subject to availability. Room prices start from £165 plus VAT before discounts. For reservations please call 01572 787522 and mention the *Times* offer.

The prize draw will take place on December 2, 1997, and the prize may be taken between January 3 and March 31, 1998, excluding Friday and Saturday nights, and is subject to availability.

The draw is open to readers who stay at Stapleford Park for at least one night (two nights if using the 25 per cent discount offer) between Aug 1-Nov 30, 1997. The draw will take place on Dec 2, 1997. The prize may be taken between Jan 3-Mar 31, 1998, excluding Friday and Saturday nights, subject to availability. T&Cs competition rules apply. This cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.



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AROUND THE WORLD: A WEEKEND GUIDE

Laos leaves its door ajar

HUNDREDS of man-sized pots are scattered over the so-called Plain of Jars surrounding Phonsawan in Laos; their use and origins are still something of a mystery.

Long Haul specialist Bales Tours (01306 741520) has put together a ten-day holiday to explore one of the least known Indo-Chinese countries which only opened its doors to visitors in 1992. The itinerary includes three nights in the capital Vientiane, three nights in world heritage site Luang Prabang to visit its temples and waterfalls, and two nights in Phonsawan. The price is £1,435 for return flights via Bangkok, full board in Laos and excursions.

New look at the Louvre

WITH the overcrowding and horrors of the old Louvre now become a thing of the past, art specialist Prospect Tours (0181-995 2163) is offering a two-night trip to the "New Grand Louvre" from November, accompanied by specialist guides.

In the new Richelieu Wing, American architect I. M. Pei has created a hall which reproduces the scale of the original setting in the Palace du Luxembourg of the series of paintings by Rubens on the life of Marie de Medicis. A room has been created to display Poussin's Seasons, and another one has been made for the smaller works of Holbein and Dürer.

The price of £253 covers travel by Eurostar, two nights B&B accommodation, a one-day museum pass, a museum tour and also a carnet of Métro tickets.

Footpath repair



YOU can learn skills such as dry-stone walling, charcoal making, footpath repair and fencing on the National Trust's working holidays which take place around Britain this summer. Projects include building a cycle path and repairing footpaths in Co Durham with volunteers living in a tented camp in the grounds of a lighthouse. More footpath restoration is taking place on some of the higher peaks of Snowdonia, staying in a mountain rescue base.

The holidays cost from £20 for a short break to £50 for a week's

project. For a copy of the National Trust Working Holidays brochure call 0891 517751 (50p a minute).

■ THE New York Convention & Visitors Bureau is offering a hotel booking service for the peak September 1-December 31 season. Accommodation in all price ranges will be on offer. The booking service is free, but not the telephone call from this country (001 212 582 3382). Bookings from the United States are toll-free on 1 800 846 766.

Sweet Georgia

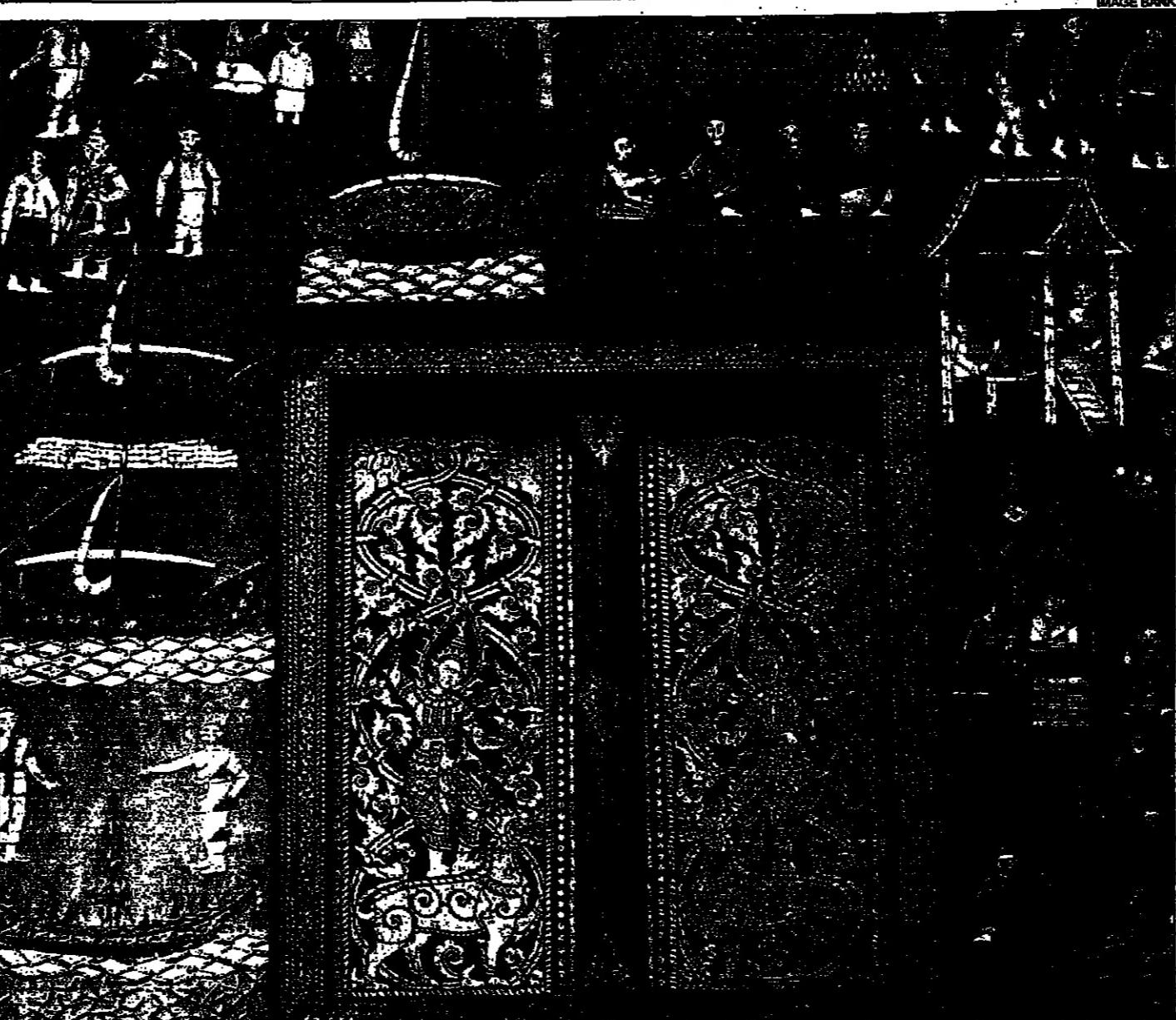
USING the new British Mediterranean airline direct flights to Tbilisi, Regent Holidays of Bristol (0117-921 7711) has come up with an unusual weekend break: you explore the churches, synagogues and mosques in the Georgian capital, buy souvenirs in the market which sells everything from treadless tyres to fine silverwork, travel the Great Military Highway to see the 6th-century Byzantine hilltop church at Djzviri, and visit Gori, Stalin's birthplace, where his former home is now a museum.

Expect basic accommodation, reasonable food (though not for vegetarians), and excellent wine and brandy. The three-night B&B break, including flights, costs from £555.

Historic USA

A SERIES of imaginative themed itineraries from North American Highways (01902 851138), tailor-made for independent motorists, link history and culture with accommodation in old inns and wilderness lodges.

On an 18-night Planters of



Temple murals in Luang Prabang. This world heritage site is part of a ten-day tour of Laos, which only opened its doors to visitors in 1992.

Virginia Tour (£712-£899) you visit the homes of wealthy patricians — Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello are two of them — with stops at Civil War battlefields and other sites en route.

The Watermen of Maryland Tour (£584-£852 for 16 nights) looks at how the other half live: the tough, independent eastern seaboard "cowboys" — the local skipjack fishermen. The tour includes a stay in the Chesapeake Wood Duck Inn on Tilghman Island, home of the last remaining antique skipjack fleet.

Prices do not include flights which can be arranged. Car hire is an additional £258 per week.

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

■ ALTHOUGH the price of most peak season accommodation can soar in beach resorts, Italian city stays can often be cheaper than usual. Accommodation Line (0171-409 1343), the firm that specialises in family-run Italian pensions, small hotels and B&Bs (with some in the £20-£28 per person per night range), is offering an extra night free for bookings of two or more nights until the end of August. The cities included are Rome, Venice, Florence, Bologna and Turin. Room Service (0171-636 6889), another

Italian specialist, has summer savings in Florence, Venice, Rome, Milan, Bologna and Naples from July 15-August 31.

Good guides

MY admiration for the Rough Guides was given a huge boost last year when I received a panic message that my peripatetic gap year son was in hospital "in Bali". While other leads to his whereabouts got nowhere, the hospital information in *Bali and Lombok Rough Guides* (£8.99) was spot on. A number of the more popular

European destinations have been revised this year: *The Rough Guide to France* (£12.99) reveals the literary bent of its authors Tim Salmon and Kate Ballie — who else knew that novelist Guy de Maupassant sailed his yacht into the port during his final life-binge before the onset of syphilitic insanity? *The Rough Guide to Corsica* (£9.99) is co-written by David Abram, who has also written the *Rough Guide to God* (£9.99).

New or revised editions of the guides are also available for Spain (£11.99), Barcelona (£8.99), Tuscany and Umbria (£10.99), Washington DC (£8.99) and Turkey (£12.99).

■ We welcome letters on holiday travel. Send them to Letters, Travel Department, The Times, 1 Penruddock Street, London E1 9XN, or fax 0171-782 5124.

Beduin and breakfast

Weeks later, there is still fine sand in my purse and the pockets of my dressing-gown. Also in my sponge bag, toothpaste lid and the alarm clock. It trickles from the oddest places without warning.

Not that the sand of the southern Sinai desert is particularly fine: it has more of a bouldery, building-site quality to it, especially inside your shoes. The reason for the finely filtered quality of the stuff I brought home is that it was efficiently sieved: it blew in through the gaps in our hut's bamboo sides. The northern gale made our clothes, hanging on nails, dance and kick the night away in a windy batter, and drove us shuddering under the heavy Bedouin blanket.

In short, it was wonderful. My scuba-addicted young son and I chose this particular package in Egypt because it was the cheapest way to be right on a beach with a reef: £28 a head including tuck

Libby Purves tries a diving holiday on the Egyptian coast

charter flight, hut just big enough for a mattress, one clean sheet, two moulding pillows, and all the goat's cheese rolls you can eat at breakfast.

"Beduin and breakfast," he said a little faintly when we saw it; and indeed Shark's Bay Camp, north of the port and resort of Sharm el Sheikh and Na'ama, is owned and run by Sheikh Embarak. Local Bedouin lounge about on its carpeted sand at night by the smouldering campfire as freely as foreign backpackers.

The company was eclectic: not all divers, although a polyglot assortment joined us on rough, exhilarating, sometimes overnight dive boat journeys down to the Ras

Mohammed underwater reserve and round into the Gulf of Suez to explore the wreck of the Thistlegorm.

There was Paul, a Californian balloon pilot on his way back from Kenya and trying to avoid tourist spots because he works in one, a wandering bemused Spaniard called Josef, and a number of huge Czech lads who had come overland. One night on the boat after Mohammed's fine tuck supper they were brandishing their duty-free and demonstrating their superb grasp of English. "Famous Grouse" said one. "Johnny Walker!" riposted another.

They all dived under the commendably fierce control of the instructor Pino, who brooks no sand-stirring, coral-bashing or fish-feeding. I snorkelled, sometimes raising the top of my mask above water to enjoy the contrast between the desolation of the mountains and the fertile brightness of coral below.

Best of all, though, was the sense of tourist innocence. The bed might be full of sand but our camp blended sweetly into the ancient coast: a few arches, low huts, shabby striped tents, a shower block fiercely urging water conservation, one Bedouin tent for a restaurant and another in which an elderly man of immense dignity sold



Local Bedouin lounge about on the carpeted sand

striped druggists "very cheap". For miles to the south and north of this simplicity we saw a coast being enthusiastically ruined by international holiday villages, tacky mock-Moorish hotels and rip-off souvenir stalls. By happy chance, our cheap option turned out to be the most precious. Before settling down to each night's sand-swept

sleep, we could stand by our hut and see comet Hale Bopp and a million stars.

It felt very like a farewell: and indeed each morning brought the bleek and rumble of the diggers ever closer.

■ Regal Holidays (01353 778096) organises diving holidays in Sharm el Sheikh from £299 a week. Learn to dive courses cost from £150.

GUNFIRE CRACKLED in the humid air as we picked our way through the trees. Huge craters appeared, the ground devastated by tonnes of high explosive, and a US Army helicopter beckoned, squatting in silence like some brooding beetle. One could feel the weight of invisible eyes, watching.

Not Saigon, 1969, but Ho Chi Minh City. Twenty miles out from the Tan Son Nhut airbase, now an international airport, the killing zone of Cu Chi has been transformed into one of the world's most chilling tourist attractions. The B52s have given way to jets, and the craters are tree-lined and choked with grass.

The Bell UH-1 Iroquois on the edge of the clearing is a brown skeleton, stripped bare, lichen-like. The gunshots come from a firing range, where visitors can take their pick of automatic weapons, blasting away like *Rambo* at a cost of a dollar a bullet. And the eyes belong to the souvenir vendors, eager to weigh you down with polished shell-casings and counterfeit GI fighters.

In ten years of war, the Americans probably dropped more high explosive on Cu Chi than any other corner of Vietnam. Here, alarmingly close to Saigon, lay the Cu Chi tunnels — more than 100 miles of underground passages and chambers, carved by hand using rudimentary tools, and stretching across the border into Cambodia. Today, portions of the tunnels have been opened up, providing a fasci-

In the killing zone



Close look at the passages

nating insight into the hell that was Vietnam.

Returning Vets have not taken kindly to an introductory film, heavy in praise for the patriots who won medals for "killing Americans". Grim-faced girls in army uniform speak of courage and resolve during the "American War". The tunnels themselves are gruelling. Visitors are invited to shuffle through pitch darkness, drenched in sweat from the humidity.

Chambers have been made into field hospitals and kitchens, right under the nose of patrolling US infantrymen. Tourists can inspect the command centre from which Viet Cong commanders launched



High cost when you phone home

From: Robert Wallis, University of London:

SOME weeks ago, you reported on visitors to Eastern Europe who were shocked to be charged several hundred pounds for a simple meal. I have discovered a Cotswold hotel which has a not too dissimilar attitude to the cost of telephone calls.

I have stayed in the Dormy House, near Broadway, many times and have often recommended it to friends in Japan and Taiwan. On a recent visit, I made a ten-minute, ten-second call to Taiwan which, according to BT, would normally cost in the region of £9.20. But when I received my bill, I was stunned to see a charge of £46.20, a mark-up of just over 400 per cent.

When I queried this, I was told in a rather supercilious way that "international calls are expensive". I have since been on a trip to Kyoto, Japan, where for a five-minute call to the UK, I was charged just £2.50.

■ A spokesman for the Durney said: "Our calls are charged at 22p per unit, which is displayed on a tag attached to the receiver. We are very competitive with other hotels in the area and, in many cases, are lower. We also have a BT payphone in the lounge."

From: John Smith, HoverSpeed: THE article "Catalan revamp brings chaos" (Time 12) claimed that hovercraft sail 90 minutes from Dover to Calais. This is incorrect. The crossing time is just 35 minutes with a motor-way-to-motor-way journey time of about 50 minutes, 10 minutes quicker than by sea.

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AUTHENTIC TESTIMONIALS

For eight years, the Health Bracelet has been sold with long-lasting success. Here are many testimonials (full names and addresses are registered in our archives as legal evidence) which confirm the extraordinary effectiveness of magnetotherapy. (The Health Bracelet is effective for 5 to 7 years).

I was suffering from pain in the back and shoulders of the spine. I had a terrible pain in my shoulder that I can't explain. Well, ever since I've been wearing the Health Bracelet, I don't feel any back or shoulder pain! I also suffered from intermittent stomach cramps due to the stress and the pain. Now I sleep very well and no longer have stomach aches. No Health Bracelet, no backs, only back after having worn it for only two months. I feel no improvement. I've been wearing it for 5 years now and they're still good. I'm still getting the same results. I've been wearing the Health Bracelet for 5 years now, and still can't get over how many changes have occurred. The pain I had from the rheumatism in my legs and feet also disappeared. I was so satisfied with the Health Bracelet that I recommended a friend who was suffering from severe rheumatic pain to buy it. She told me the Health Bracelet relieved much of her pain. I will always be grateful to you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. G.L.

I was doubtful at first, but then I said myself I would try it. I had surgery for lower back pain 10 years ago during which I went through a period of suffering. Thanks to the Health Bracelet, I am no longer in pain. It's wonderful. I recommend it to everyone. Four of my friends also bought one and they're satisfied with it. Thank you, Y.L.

My knees were swollen and I could hardly walk. I saw an ad about how effective the Health Bracelet was, so I ordered one. After some time, to my great surprise, both the pain and the swelling disappeared. My circulation also improved. I couldn't do without my Health Bracelet anymore. I'm recovering if I.L.T.

My bones and my circulation were bad because I couldn't exercise due to illness. I am now 50 years old. I've had three heart attacks so far. I am very proud of it and I strongly recommend the bracelet to everyone. Not only does it make me feel better, but it also looks nice. M.L.

In 1970, I broke a shoulder in an accident. All the doctors could do was pin my shoulder. I couldn't work with that arm anymore. I was in so much pain. For the past 7 years, I've been wearing the Health Bracelet and working with less pain. I never take the Health Bracelet off. I recommend it to all my friends. R.I.M.

I feel pain in my legs, my hands and foot joints. For the past year, I've been wearing the Health Bracelet and I can honestly feel a difference. The numbness is gone and my circulation is better. In the beginning, I really didn't think it could work. But now I recommend it to all my friends. T.F.

I've been wearing the Health Bracelet for two years and I am completely satisfied with it. It eases my pain considerably. I could no longer go without my Health Bracelet. R.J.

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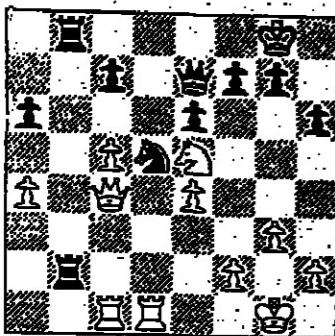
by Raymond Keene

THE outstanding player in the English team which won the gold medals in the European Team Championship at Pula was grandmaster Matthew Sadler.

Sadler's forte is counterattack with the black pieces. Indeed, so successful is he with Black that he has notched up the amazing score of ten consecutive wins with Black in last year's chess Olympiad and the Pula competition.

The following position shows just how dangerous he can be.

White Dizdar; Black: Sadler; European Team Championship, Pula 1997



In this position White appears to be pressing. True, Black's rooks control the b-file, but there is a latent threat of Nc6, forcing Black's queen and rook, and meanwhile Black's central knight is under attack. Sadler's solution is startling.

23 ... Ne3

An amazing coup. White has no choice but to capture.

24 Rxe3

With the dual threats of ... Qxe5 and ... Qxe3. If now 25 Qd4? Qh5

26 h4 Qe2 and Black wins

25 Qe5 Qh5

26 Rxd8+

Again, if 26 ... Rxd8 27 Qxd2 when White's problems would be over, but Black is remorseless.

26 ... Kf7 27 Rxd2

An admission of defeat. White cannot retain his extra material.

The weakness of his second rank has proved fatal.

27 ... Rxd2 28 Qxd2 Qxe5

29 Qd4 Qg5 30 Rf1 e5

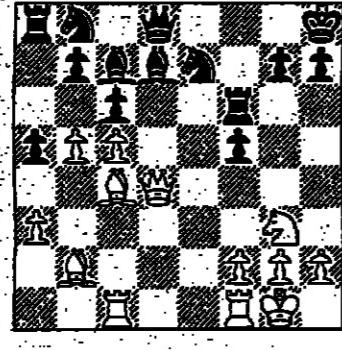
31 Qe5 16

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene
White to play. This position is from the game Stanton Worrall, London 1959.
How did White smash through the black defences?

Send your answer on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Stanton Society, which includes a free invitation to the annual dinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ... Re2+



Last week's winner: A C Harris, Lightcliffe, Halifax.

White's combination has left him with a rock-solid position: some initiative and deadly play against White's shattered pawn structure.

32 Kg2 Qg4 33 Qe4 a5

34 h3 Qd7 35 Qe2 Qc8

36 Rd1 Rb4 37 Rb8 Rxed

38 Rcb1 Rb4 White resigns

British chess must once again express its thanks to merchant banker Duncan Lawrie which has for so many years supported the costs of sending the English team to international events.

At long last its efforts have been rewarded with the gold medals.

Prize puzzle

The following position is the opening puzzle for the 1997 British Chess Solving Championship.

The problem is White to play and mate in two moves against any Black defence.

Those wishing to enter should send a cheque or postal order for £3 to cover administrative expenses with their entry which should consist of White's first move only to: British Chess Problem Society, 9 Rayfield Drive, Waterlooville, Hampshire SO9 6ND.

Those entering should enclose a stamped addressed envelope so that they can be notified if they have reached the second, postal stage of the championship.

The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, July 9.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 59, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

Contract: Four Spades by South

Lead: king of hearts

against Israel. At the time the British were leading with Israel second.

Five of a minor would have been a better contract, but McGowan found herself in the slightly less secure Four Spades, against the attack of king and ace of hearts.

How should she play?

See what happens if declarer ruffs the second heart. She then leads the king of spades, which East ducks. East takes the next spade and plays a heart, and now declarer is out of control — East has one more trump than she does.

McGowan saw this coming, and instead of ruffing the second heart, discarded a club. She was still safe if the trumps were three-three, and the gain came when the trumps were four-two with the ten falling doubleton — when West played a third heart dummy could ruff, enabling declarer to keep her trump holding intact. McGowan now played spades from the top, thus keeping control and only losing two hearts and the ace of spades.

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

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